

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Fifth Sunday of Easter

Music Sunday

Sunday, April 28, 2024

10:00 A.M.

119 WEST COMMERCE STREET

BRIDGETON, NJ 08302

PHONE (856)455-0809

WWW.FPCBRIDGETON.ORG

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE Psalm XIX Benedetto Marcello

WELCOME Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist
We come to worship with joy, trusting God's holy word will inspire us. **We lean into God for understanding, anticipating the Spirit's blessing.** May God hear our praise! **May we be counted among the great congregation. May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to God.**

***HYMN** #464 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

PRAYER OF THE DAY Liturgist

CALL TO CONFESSION Rev. Kaul
CHOIR Create In Me A Clean Heart, O God Carl F. Mueller
(Psalm 51:10-13)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Kaul
Risen One, we confess our silence amid the persecution of others, silence that has often complied with oppression and brought harm. What can we do to eradicate poverty, hunger, and homelessness? Help us to hear your voice above all others, and teach us how to care for our neighbor, feed the hungry, and clothe and care for those in need, for as we do these things unto one another, we do them also unto you. (Silent Reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Rev. Kaul

***GLORIA PATRI**

SOLO Blessed Assurance Fanny Crosby/ J. F. Knapp
Ted R. - Soloist

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Liturgist

A TIME TO BE YOUNG

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 100 Liturgist

¹ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. ²**Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.**
³ Know that the Lord is God. **It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.** ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. **Give thanks to him; bless his name.** ⁵ For the Lord is good; **his steadfast love endures forever** and his faithfulness to all generations.

CHOIR Lift Up the Gates Eternal Israeli Folk melody/ text A.D. Duba
**Lift up the gates eternal; lift up your voices;
the King of glory comes; the nation rejoices.**
(Psalm 24, paraphrase)
Lewie H. - Tambourine

GOSPEL READING John 15:1-8 Rev. Kaul

SOLO Broken and Spilled Out G. Gaither/B. George
Debbie A. - Soloist

SOLO His Eye Is on the Sparrow C.H. Gabriel/arr. P. Mickelson
Beverly P.- Flute

***HYMN** #264 When in Our Music God Is Glorified

SOLO "Adagio in E Major" Frank Bridge
Rev. Norlita K. - Organ

CHOIR Come Bless The Lord Robert Lau
(Psalm 134:1 additional text R.L.)
Beverly P. - Flute

Brother James' Air J.L.M. Bain/ arr G. Jacob
(Psalm, 23)

Praise God in His Holiness Van Denman Thompson
(Psalm 150)

SOLO This Little Light of Mine attrib. H.C. Loes/arr. M. Hayes
Gae F. - Piano

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH- Apostle's Creed (Traditional) Liturgist
I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND OFFERING Rev. Kaul

OFFERTORY

Since Jesus Came into My Heart C.H. Gabriel/arr/ J.D. Kimball
Handbells - Amy B., Gae F., Rev. Norlita, Debbie H.

***Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***HYMN #514 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

“May the Lord watch between me and thee, while we are absent, one from the other.” (*Mizpah Benediction*)

POSTLUDE Trumpet Tune

Wilbur Held

TODAY

Serving Today

LITURGIST- Caroline O.

USHERS- Bruce H., Howard T., Bill F.

COUNTERS - Marie D., Joyce I.

FELLOWSHIP - Rev. Norlita & Friends

FLOWERS - Rev. Norlita

TODAY- Presby Perennials Meeting after Church

THIS WEEK

5/1 (Wed.) - **Book Study 1:00 pm** A for Alabaster
in Fithian Room / via Zoom



5/2 (Thurs.) - **Crafter's Comradery** 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Bonham Hall



5/5 (Sun.) - Congregational Town Hall Meeting
with our Session after worship

The choir anthems today are all taken from the Psalms, the hymnal of the Bible and cover a wide range of emotions. **“Create in me a clean heart, O God”** is sung during Lent as we ask for forgiveness and a new start in our lives. **“Lift Up the Gates Eternal”** is heard during Advent and on Palm Sunday. The tempo becomes faster and faster with the anticipation of the approaching Messiah. **Psalm 23** is perhaps the best known and most beloved of all the Psalms. It is a source of both comfort and hope. **Psalm 150** is the last of the Psalms as well as the last we will sing today. It exhorts us to praise God, including a list of instruments: psaltery, harp, trumpet, stringed instruments, organ and cymbals. May these Psalms continue to speak to us in a new way today.

**“Go into the arts. I’m not kidding.
The arts are not a way to make a living.
They are a very human way of making life more bearable.
Practicing an art, no matter how well or badly,
is a way to make your soul grow, for heaven’s sake.
Sing in the shower. Dance to the radio. Tell stories.
Write a poem to a friend, even a lousy poem.
Do it as well as you possibly can.
You will get an enormous reward.
You will have created something.”**

Kurt Vonnegut

Deerfield Recital Series



The New Jersey Chamber Orchestra

Music by Mozart and Beethoven

Conducted by Thomas Hong

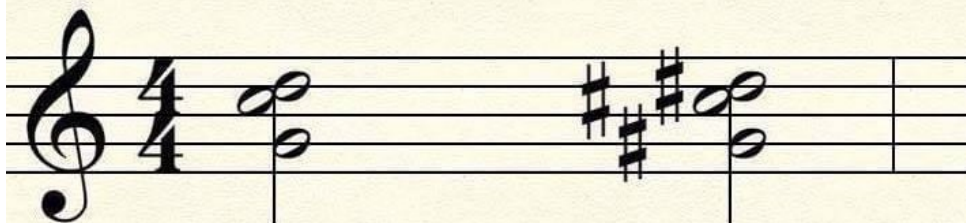
with Anne Sun, violin, and Rachel Ku, viola

Sunday, May 5th, 2024 -- 4:00PM

Deerfield Presbyterian Church, 530 Old Deerfield Pike, Deerfield Street, New Jersey

G sus

is risen!



"Three Pieces for Organ"

Frank Bridge (1879-1941)

Movement #2- Adagio in E Major

Written: 1905

English Composer, Violinist, Conductor, Instructor

He studied at the Royal College of Music in London England, 1899-1903. Instructor for the composer Benjamin Britten. Prof. Bridge was a strong pacifist, deeply disturbed by WWI. He wrote several pastoral/ elegiac pieces in search of spiritual consolation. He was not an organist, nor associated with the music of the English Church, his short

pieces for organ have been among the most performed of all his musical output. (Source: Wikipedia). Notice that Bridge's "Three Pieces For Organ" was written only 2 years after completing his training at the Royal College of Music in 1903. I studied this piece as a beginning Master's Student in Organ Performance at UMKC's Conservatory in Music in Kansas City at the age of 28. It moved me then but not as much as it moves me in my spirit yet still today. The "Adagio" continues to be one of my favorite pieces to play. Its score looks easy, but in reality, it isn't. Sometimes in life, the simple/the easy at first sight turns out to not be so, another paradox, as life is. Rev. Norlita Kaul

John 15:1-8 Notes

Theme: Abide In Me as I Abide In You

Heidi Haverkamp in the Connections Commentary Series Devotional, there's the reminder as focus in the use of the verb in Greek, "Meno" or "to abide." She writes, "the vine grower needs to vine to produce as it is meant to do. Metaphors of Vines in Israel's Scriptures convey God's love and deep care, to ensure fruitfulness, connectivity, unity and judgment." There is a "mystical" component in the images of Jesus as "true vine," and the disciples as "the branches." This is the reminder of the "mystical union" the believer is to have with God. This is very important in John's community at the time the Gospel was written. There isn't any distinction then between "the vine," and "the branches," all are to be "one." This reminds us of this "union," to be "one with God," spiritually speaking in our lives. God is the Vine Owner/Grower, Jesus is the Vine, We are the Branches.

In English 2 words come into interplay here, "abide," or "remain." Both are found in various translations of this passage. However look closely and there's a difference of intention of what's being asked of us, as Jesus asked his disciples to do.

Abide- To live/stay somewhere. (verb) when used without an object in the sentence means to "dwell," have one's abode," "reside." Synonyms= tarry, live, endure, persevere. (Cambridge Dictionary)

Remain-To stay in the same place or in the same condition. (Cambridge Dictionary).

Rev. Chelsea Harmon in her commentary writes, "Meno" in Greek, "to remain" or "abide." The former carries the tone of a command. Jesus uses the word to describe a "mutual being together." (Another way of thinking of this is the "mystical union," described above. Harmon goes on to write, "our abiding/remaining in God is different than the way God abides/remains with us. (I'll add-"in us'). Branches come and go, get pruned or completely removed in any season. The Living Vine always remains. From the vine that gives, the branches grow and produce. This passage focuses on

what can happen in our life with Christ, our discipleship.” Great stuff isn’t this!

In the Connections Devotional is found a “Further Connection,” by the late Archbishop Rev. Dr. Desmond Tutu (1931-2021) from his writing, “God Is Not A Christian: and Other Provocations.” He writes, “In the African worldview, in this we have “ubuntu.” In Xhosa is said, “Umntu ngumtu ngabantu.” It is very difficult to render in English. We could translate it, “a person is a person through other persons.” We need other human beings for us to learn “how” to be human, for none of us comes fully formed into the world. For us, a solitary human being as a contradiction in terms. Ubuntu is the essence of being human. It speaks of “how” my humanity is caught up and bound up inextricably with yours.”

This circles us back to the Hebrew concept as word, “Shalom.” Whose meaning I remind us, is “in seeking the welfare of another human being, my own well being also has welfare.” Jesus’; statement to “abide in Me,” draws us into the reminder in our lives, that it’s all about relationships, yours, mine, ours, with each other, with Jesus, and with our God. Refer to John’s Prologue to this Gospel, Ch. 1:1-18, “in the beginning was the word....and the word was with God and came into this world... “pitching a tent,” (Skeine in Greek) means “indwelling, abiding in, mystical union,” with humanity, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. My hope and prayer is that spiritually speaking we, as the body of Christ called FPC Bridgeton, become a congregation of intentionality and growth, in our “abiding” in our Triune God at a deep spiritual level.

Shalom my friends!
Rev. Norlita J. Kaul, Pastor





(I Am The Vine, You are the Branches-John 15:5)



Rev. Norlita Kaul, Pastor

EMAIL: BridgetonFPCPastor@GMAIL.COM

CELL # (248) 342-6190

Gae Finch, Organist and Choir Director

Christie Sever, Administrative Assistant

EMAIL: firstpresbridgeton@gmail.com

www.fpcbridgeton.org

John Ambrose, Clerk of Session

Bob Woodruff, Treasurer