



First Presbyterian Church of Ridgewood NJ

We are a welcoming community formed in Christ, committed to sharing his love with others – with feet that carry us out into the world, with hands that serve, and with hearts in fellowship and faith.
– First Presbyterian Church Mission Statement, adopted October 2018



SEVENTH SUNDAY *of* EASTER

SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024

Watch live: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oANRN4Kwxk>

*Let us be reminded that during worship, music is played and sung as an offering to God.
Please refrain from applauding and waving bulletins. Thank you.*

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PRELUDE

I am a Child of God – Mildred T. Pettit
Christopher Vehmas, Organ

WELCOME *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ Rev. Bruce Ballantine

CALL *to* WORSHIP

O come, let us sing to the Lord
and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!
**Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving,
singing joyful songs of praise.**

*HYMN 430 - *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!*

PRAYER *of* CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love. We have not loved our neighbors, and we have refused to hear the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE *of* FORGIVENESS

*HYMN 579 – *Gloria Patri*

*PASSING *of the* PEACE

ANTHEM

Beautiful Savior - David Allen

The Chancel Choir

Christopher Vehmas, Piano

Dr. Edward Schmiedecke, Director

Beautiful Savior! King of creation! Son of God and Son of man! Truly I'd love Thee, truly I'd serve Thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown. Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flowers of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorrowing spirit sing. Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high; Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer, than all the angels in the sky. Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations! Son of God and Son of man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be Thine!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MaryEllen Castaldo ~ Director *of* Children *and* Family Ministries

FIRST READING ~ Rita Infante
Psalm 1

SECOND READING ~ Rita Infante
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

SERMON

Who Is Justus in Your Faith Journey? ~ Rev. Bruce Ballantine

MUSICAL OFFERING

Here is Love by Joseph Martin
Vera Coleman, Soprano

Here is love, vast as the ocean, loving kindness, as the flood, when the Prince of Love, our ransom, shed for us His precious blood. Who His love will not remember? Who can cease to sing His praise? He can never be forgotten throughout heav'n's eternal days. On the mount of crucifixion, fountains opened, deep and wide. Through the floodgates of God's mercy flowed a vast and gracious tide. Grace and love, like mighty rivers, poured incessant from above, and God's peace and perfect justice kissed a guilty world in love. Here is love, vast as the ocean. Here is love, wide as the sea. Here is love.



venmo

CALL to OFFERING

Please venmo @FirstPres-RidgewoodNJ,
drop your offering in the plate on your way out,
or mail check to the church. Thank you!



venmo

PRAYER of DEDICATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of all things seen and unseen, if you had insulated yourself from the pain of the world,
then your name would not be Love, and our condition would be without hope.
Thank you for being so personally involved, for revealing your complete commitment in Jesus of
Nazareth. Through him we pray with hope, and in him we pray with love.
Let your healing love be known this day by all who suffer ailment of body,
or distress of mind, or agony of spirit.

Silent Prayer

Please reveal your compassion,
Loving God, bring wholeness to all.

Let your intimate love be known today by all who feel forgotten or lost,
and all who are walking in the dark valley of despair.

Silent Prayer

Please reveal your compassion,
Loving God, bring wholeness to all.

Let your fierce love this day redress the wrongs of all who suffer exploitation, injustice,
abuse, neglect, violence or undeserved imprisonment.

Silent Prayer

Please reveal your compassion,
Loving God, bring wholeness to all.

Let your nurturing love today encourage those who are gathering resolve to make tough decisions,
take on new responsibilities, or break free from some bondage.

Silent Prayer

Please reveal your compassion,
Loving God, bring wholeness to all.

Let your relentless love this day shake up congregations that have become complacent or self-centred or even contemptuous of other churches.

Silent Prayer

Please reveal your compassion,
Loving God, bring wholeness to all.

Let your reconciling love today gather together separated Christians. Make them aware of and inspire them to support the fellowship and mission of the one, universal body of Christ.

Silent Prayer

Please reveal your compassion,
Loving God, bring wholeness to all.

Let your life-giving love this day rejuvenate and refresh pastors, church educators and church leaders who have become weary to their bones.

Silent Prayer

Please reveal your compassion,
Loving God, bring wholeness to all.

Thank you for hearing us, most loving God. With the whole body of believers in time and eternity, we desire to love, praise and serve you, today and evermore. Through Christ Jesus, your true Son. And now we are bold to pray as Jesus taught us:

**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 – *There Is a Redeemer*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Holy Holy Holy – John B Dykes
Christopher Vehmas, Organ

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given with gratitude by Team 200 in honor of Peggy Norris for spearheading the church's bicentennial history book - Celebrating 200 Years of God's Grace and Glory. Members of Team 200 are grateful for the gifts of her time and talent.

*Please stand if you are able.

SCRIPTURE READINGS
for SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024

FIRST READING

Psalm 1

¹ Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; ² but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. ³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. ⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; ⁶ for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

SECOND READING

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, ¹⁶ ‘Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— ¹⁷ for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.’

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.’ ²³ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed and said, ‘Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.’ ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

430

Brian Dill, 1988

DARWALL'S 148TH 6.6.6.6.8.8

John Darwall, 1770

1. Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
2. Long years have come and gone, And still God reigns su - preme,
3. Let cour - age be our friend, Let wis - dom be our guide,
4. Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has led us through the a - ges long!
Em - power - ing us to catch the vi - sion, dream the dream!
As we in mis - sion mag - ni - fy the Cru - ci - fied!
For Christ the Lord has tri - umphed o'er the a - ges long!

In bold ac - cord, come cel - e - brate the jour - ney now and praise the Lord!

This tune in a lower key, 155

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There Is a Redeemer

443



1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son;
 2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,
 3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;



pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah, Ho - ly One.
 pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah, hope for sin - ners slain.
 there I'll serve my King for - ev - er in that ho - ly place.



Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv - ing us your Son, and



leav - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

Although the refrain of this piece names all three Persons of the Trinity, the stanzas emphasize references to Jesus Christ under various titles. There is also a shift in tone between the stanzas and the refrain: the former speak about God and the latter speaks to God.