



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



THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024

Watch live: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EUxexy9upA>

*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 Feel My Savior's Love – Lynne Perry
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 151 – *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

*HYMN 579 – *Gloria Patri*

*PASSING of the PEACE

ANTHEM

God Is My Rock - John D. Horman
The Chancel Choir
Christopher Vehmas, Piano
Dr. Edward Schmiedecke, Director

God is my rock and my salvation, God is my life, my love, my all! God is my strength, God is my refuge. Whom shall I fear? God of my strength enthroned above, source of my life, the fount of love; O let devotion's sacred flame waken my soul to praise Thy name. God is my rock and my protector, safe from all strife, my life will be. God is my hope and my deliverer. Whom shall I fear? God of our strength, on Thee we call; God of our hope, our light, our all. Thy name we praise, Thy love adore, our rock, our shield forevermore. God is my rock and my salvation. God is my life, my love, my all! God is my strength! God is my refuge! Whom shall I fear? Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MaryEllen Castaldo ~ Director of Children *and* Family Ministries

PSALTER READING ~ Rita Infante
Psalm 4

GOSPEL READING ~ Rita Infante
Luke 24:36b-48

SERMON
When Jesus Shows Up ~ Rev. Bruce Ballantine

MUSICAL OFFERING
I Know He Lives – Linda Chapman and Bonnie Heidenreich
Vera Coleman, Soprano

I know he lives. With him there is no end. I know he lives, as my eternal friend. Because he lives, I know that I shall live again. I know, my savior lives. I know he lives and blesses me with peace. I feel the joy inside my soul increase. I'll give my life to serve him willingly. I know my savior lives. He gently leads me. His spirit feeds me. All that I am I owe to his great love. One coming day, I shall see his face, and he will hold me. For he has told me that I can live with him eternally! I know he lives, my savior! I know he lives, my king! I want to love him 'til the end of time. I know he lives.

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



venmo

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Loving and listening God, ever-attentive to the voices of those in need,
we call on your name so that we might live. Please hear our prayers:

For the church that bears Christ's name, that the world may know we are his disciples
by the love that we have for one another.

Silent Prayers

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

For leaders of nations and all persons in positions of authority,
that their lives may be marked by Christ-like service and love.

Silent Prayers

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

For all victims of war, for all who are oppressed and living in captivity,
that they may escape from evil and death and live in security and peace.

Silent Prayers

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

For the victims of natural disasters, such as earthquakes, wildfires and floods,
people who have lost their homes, their businesses and loved ones.

Silent Prayers

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

For those who are hungry and thirsty this day and for those who have more than enough,
that we may learn to share your generous gifts, O God.

Silent Prayers

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

For those who are dealing with loss or facing death, for those who are ill or recovering from injury,
that the presence of Christ may bless and keep them.

Silent Prayers

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayers.**

Answer us in the day of trouble, O God, so that we may lift up the cup of salvation in the presence of your people, giving thanks for all your goodness to us; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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 376 – Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God – Virgil Fox
Christopher Vehmas, Organ

CHANCEL FLOWERS

*Chancel Flowers are given by Cole & Taylor Magrath
in honor of Leo & Laura Magrath's 42nd Anniversary!*

*Please stand if you are able.

SCRIPTURE READINGS
for SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024

PSALTER READING

Psalm 4

¹ Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer. ² How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame? How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies? ³ But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him. ⁴ When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent. ⁵ Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord. ⁶ There are many who say, “O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!” ⁷ You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound. ⁸ I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:36b-48

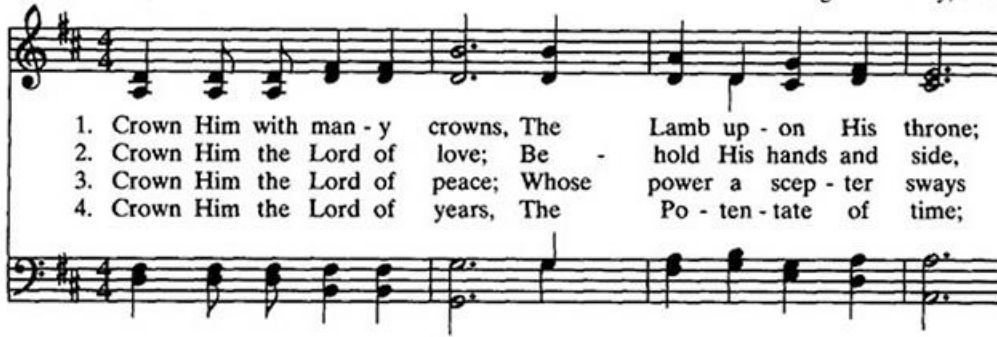
^{36b} Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

Crown Him with Many Crowns 151

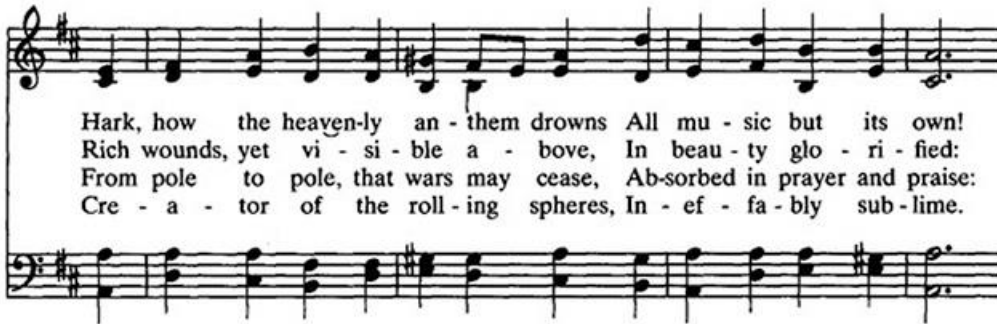
DIADEMATA SMD

Matthew Bridges, 1851

George Job Elvey, 1868



1. Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;
 2. Crown Him the Lord of love; Be - hold His hands and side,
 3. Crown Him the Lord of peace; Whose power a scep - ter sways
 4. Crown Him the Lord of years, The Po - ten - tate of time;



Hark, how the heav - en - ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own!
 Rich wounds, yet vi - si - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
 From pole to pole, that wars may cease, Ab - sorbed in prayer and praise:
 Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, In - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
 No an - gel in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His reign shall know no end; And round His pierc - ed feet
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For Thou hast died for me;



And hail Him as thy match - less King Through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 But down - ward bends his burn - ing eye At mys - ter - ies so bright.
 Fair flowers of Par - a - dise ex - tend Their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
 Thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail Through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

376 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7 D

Charles Wesley, 1747

Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
 2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - ery
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all Thy
 4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot - less

earth come down, Fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing,
 trou - bled breast! Let us all in Thee in - her - it,
 life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er,
 let us be; Let us see Thy great sal - va - tion

All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown! Je - sus, Thou art all com -
 Let us find the prom - ised rest; Take a - way the love of
 Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways
 Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee; Changed from glo - ry in - to

pas - sion, Pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
 sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
 bless - ing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove; Pray, and praise Thee
 glo - ry, Till in heaven we take our place, Till we cast our

Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.