



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



THE FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

Watch live: <https://www.youtube.com/live/YRFR4oomQG4>

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PRELUDE

In Christ There Is No East or West – Dale Wood

Hymn No. 440

Linda Sweetman Waters, Organ

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ Rev. Bruce Ballantine

MINUTE for MISSION ~ Sidney Bowie

City Relief

CALL to WORSHIP

Jesus said: I give you a new commandment,
that you love one another.

**Just as I have loved you,
you also should love one another.**

*HYMN – *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love* (See Attachment)

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own concerns. We have gone along with evil, pride, quarrelling and divisiveness. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

*HYMN 579 – *Gloria Patri*

*PASSING of the PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING

Consecration - John Ness Beck

Text: Frances R. Havergal

The Chancel Choir

Dr. Edward Schmiedecke, Director

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee. Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy Love. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee. Take my voice and let it sing always, only, for my King. Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from Thee. Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold. Take my intellect, and use every power as Thou shalt choose. Take my will, and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal Throne. Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store. Take my self, and I will be, ever, only, all for Thee.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MaryEllen Castaldo, Director of Children & Family Ministries

Following the Children's Message, children and youth are invited to attend Sunday School.

PSALTER READING ~ Amy Pierre
Psalm 148:1-13

GOSPEL READING ~ Amy Pierre
John 13:31-35

SERMON ~ Rev. Bruce Ballantine
Easier Said than Done, But Do It

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. Now 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 to find the land of freedom you have promised.

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.**



CALL to OFFERING

You may make your offering via Tithe.ly,
place an offering in the plate as it is passed,
or mail a check to the church office. Thank you!



OFFERTORY SOLO
Light Op. 58 – Frederick Stevenson
Joshua LeRose, Tenor

From out the dawn there came a voice: "Know ye that He is near - even now is with you. The Christ, the God of Love, the Very Love of God. And He shall take you by the hand, and lead you in the paths of Love. If only ye will: if only ye be kind, and gentle: if only ye give of the good of life to others - as did He." And yet again is heard a voice: "Tired, are ye, and tempted? sorrow-laden, fearing? The Christ, the Prince of Peace, bids fear and doubt depart! And He is ever at your side, to guide you in the way of peace. If only ye be true: if only ye be pure in spirit: if only ye give the joy of life--full measured as did He."

*DOXOLOGY – Hymn 592

*PRAYER of DEDICATION

*HYMN 358 – *Help Us Accept Each Other*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

We Have Heard the Joyful Sound – arr. Robert J. Powell
Linda Sweetman Waters, Organ

CHANCEL FLOWERS

*Chancel Flowers are given by Sue Dickinson
to celebrate Lew Dickinson's birthday and in memory of her mother, Lucy Force.*

*Please stand if you are able.

SCRIPTURE READINGS
for SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

PSALTER READING

Psalms 148:1-13

¹ Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! ² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! ³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! ⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! ⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created. ⁶ He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed. ⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, ⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command! ⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! ¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! ¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! ¹² Young men and women alike, old and young together! ¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

GOSPEL READING

John 13:31-35

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:



And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

Help Us Accept Each Other

BARONITA 7.6.7.6 D

Fred Kaan, 1975

Doreen Potter, 1975

1. Help us ac - cept each oth - er As Christ ac - cept-ed us;
 2. Teach us, O Lord, Your les - sons, As in our dai - ly life
 3. Let Your ac - cep - tance change us, So that we may be moved
 4. Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters With all who are in need,

Teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, Each per - son to em - brace.
 We strug - gle to be hu - man And search for hope and faith.
 In liv - ing sit - u - a - tions To do the truth in love;
 Who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, For righ - teous - ness and bread,

Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us And bring us to be - lieve
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, For all, not just for some,
 To prac - tice Your ac - cep - tance Un - til we know by heart
 We need new eyes for see - ing, New hands for hold - ing on:

We are our - selves ac - cept - ed And meant to love and live.
 To love them as we find them Or as they may be - come.
 The ta - ble of for - give - ness And laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 Re - new us with Your Spir - it; Lord, free us, make us one!