



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 *after* PENTECOST SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2024

Watch live: <https://www.youtube.com/live/wulVME1bJqQ>

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PRELUDE

Festive Piece on *Plainfield* – Robert Lowry, arr. Joseph M. Martin
Linda Sweetman Waters, Piano

WELCOME *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ Rev. Bruce Ballantine

CALL *to* WORSHIP

Here, in this place, we discover the wonderful things God has done.

**In story and song, in silence and sacrament,
we are reminded that nothing can separate us
from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Here, among God's people,
we experience what it means to love one another
and to be a community of welcome.

Here, on this day, we gather once more to worship God together!

*HYMN – *Here in This Place* (see attachment)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE *of* FORGIVENESS

*PASSING *of the* PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING

Give Me Jesus - arr. Duane Funderburk
Carol Schmiedecke, Mezzo Soprano and Emma Schmiedecke, Cello
Linda Sweetman Waters, Piano

When I am alone, give me Jesus. You may have all the rest, give me Jesus. O, when I come to die, give me Jesus. You may have all the rest, give me Jesus. And when I want to sing, give me Jesus. You may have all the rest, give me Jesus.

FIRST READING ~ Sue Dickinson
Psalm 123

SECOND READING ~ Sue Dickinson
2 Corinthians 12:2-10

SERMON
Discovering Strength in Weakness ~ Rev. Bruce Ballantine



 Tithe.ly

CALL to OFFERING

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





PRAYER of DEDICATION

MUSICAL OFFERING

Come to Me – Dan Forrest

Adapted from Matthew 11:25, 28-29

2 Corinthians 6:18 and I John 3:1

Carol Schmiedecke, Mezzo Soprano and Emma Schmiedecke, Cello

Linda Sweetman Waters, Piano

Come, come.... "Come to me, all you who labor, come to me, and I will give you rest. Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and you will find rest for your souls. Come, my child, learn my heart, for I am gentle and lowly. See how great my love for you, that I have called you my child. Come to me. Come."

THE SACRAMENT of THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING & 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.

BREAKING of the BREAD

COMMUNION of the PEOPLE

PRAYER after COMMUNION

*HYMN 404 – *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Allegro Moderato – G. F. Handel

Linda Sweetman Waters, Organ

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Chancel Flowers are given by Jessica Strader Paz in honor of her grandparents, Frank and Carolyn Pastor, who are celebrating their 39th wedding anniversary on July 9. They were married on a Tuesday in the Chapel at First Pres.

*Please stand if you are able.

SCRIPTURE READINGS
for SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2024

FIRST READING

Psalm 123

¹To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! ²As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he has mercy upon us. ³Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. ⁴Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

²I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Here in This Place

401

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

404

PRECIOUS LORD 6.6.9 D

Thomas A. Dorsey, 1938

George N. Allen, 1844
Arr. Thomas A. Dorsey, 1938

1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, help me stand; I am
2. When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near; When my

tired, I am weak, I am worn; Through the storm, through the night, Lead me
life is al - most gone, Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my

on to the light; Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.
hand lest I fall; Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

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