



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



SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER, MAY 5, 2024

Watch live: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B573aro-pZU>

At 10:00 am the First Pres Sunday School students Pre-K thru 8th Grade will meet in Room One of the Christian Education Wing.

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

For the Beauty of the Earth – Gerald Anderson
Linda Sweetman Waters, Piano

WELCOME *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ Rev. Bruce Ballantine

CALL to WORSHIP

Jesus offers a new commandment,
that we should love each other.

**With the incredible power and depth
of God's love for us,**

we can and we must love one another.

And it is in this, our love for one another,
that the world will know whom we worship.

Come, friends of Jesus, let us love one another.

Let us worship God together!

*HYMN 465 – *Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

*HYMN 579 – *Gloria Patri*

*PASSING of the PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING

Inscription of Hope – Z. Randall Stroope

The Chancel Choir

Dr. Edward Schmiedecke, Director

Linda Sweetman Waters, Piano

The Holocaust is a stunning reminder of the tragic results of prejudice and hate toward other people. But it is also a reminder that hope held firm will eventually reign victorious over the greatest of odds. The following words were inscribed on the walls of a cellar in Cologne, Germany, where Jews were hiding from the Nazis during World War II. Hope was all they had to hold on to; hope was their only bridge to a brighter tomorrow.

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining, and I believe in love even when there's no one there. And I believe in God even when He is silent, I believe through any trial there is always a way. But sometimes in this suffering and hopeless despair, my heart cries for shelter, to know someone's there. But a voice rises within me saying, "Hold on my child, I'll give you strength, I'll give you hope, just stay a little while." I believe in the sun.... May there someday be sunshine, may there someday be happiness, may there someday be love, may there someday be peace.

PSALTER READING ~ Dawn Murdock

Psalm 98

GOSPEL READING ~ Dawn Murdock

John 15:9-17

SERMON

Friends of a Friend ~ Rev. Bruce Ballantine

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!

PRAYER of DEDICATION

MUSICAL OFFERING

Prayer from Jewish Life – Ernest Bloch

Emma Schmiedecke, Cello

Linda Sweetman Waters, Piano

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 367 – *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

BENEDICTION



venmo



venmo

POSTLUDE

This Is the Feast – Charles Callahan

Linda Sweetman Waters, Organ

CHANCEL FLOWERS

*Chancel Flowers are given by the Schmiedecke family
in memory all of the souls lost in the Holocaust.*

*Please stand if you are able.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

for SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024

PSALTER READING

Psalm 98

¹ O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.² The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. ³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. ⁴ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. ⁵ Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. ⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord. ⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it. ⁸ Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy ⁹ at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

GOSPEL READING

John 15:9-17

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

465 Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather

TOKYO 7.5.7.5 D

Tokuo Yamaguchi, 1958

Trans. Everett M. Stowe, 1958; alt. 1972

Japanese gagaku mode

Isao Koizumi, 1958



1. Here, O Lord, Your ser - vants gath - er, Hand we link with hand;
 2. Man - y are the tongues we speak, Scat - tered are the lands,
 3. Na - ture's se - crets o - pen wide, Chang - es nev - er cease;
 4. Grant, O God, an age re - newed, Filled with death - less love;



Look - ing toward our Sav - ior's cross, Joined in love we stand.
 Yet our hearts are one in God, One in love's de - mands.
 Where, O where, can wea - ry souls Find the source of peace?
 Help us as we work and pray, Send us from a - bove



As we seek the realm of God, We u - nite to pray:
 E'en in dark - ness hope ap - pears, Call - ing age and youth:
 Un - to all those sore dis - tressed, Torn by end - less strife:
 Truth and cour - age, faith and power Need - ed in our strife:



Je - sus, Sav - ior, guide our steps, For You are the Way.
 Je - sus, teach - er, dwell with us, For You are the Truth.
 Je - sus, heal - er, bring Your balm, For You are the Life.
 Je - sus, Sav - ior, be our way, Be our truth, our life.

367 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

CHEREPONI Irregular with refrain

Ghanaian folk song
Trans. Tom Colvin, 1969Ghanaian folk melody
Adapt. Tom Colvin, 1963
Arr. Jane Marshall, 1982

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with Your love, Show

Fine
us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from You.

1. Kneels at the feet of His friends, Si - lent - ly wash - es their
2. Neigh-bors are rich and poor, Var - ied in col - or and
3. These are the ones we should serve, These are the ones we should
4. Lov - ing puts us on our knees, Serv - ing as though we are
5. Kneel at the feet of our friends, Si - lent - ly wash - ing their

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LIFE IN CHRIST

D.C.

feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
race, Neigh-bors are near and far a - way.
love, All are neigh-bors to us and You.
slaves, This is the way we should live with You.
feet, This is the way we should live with You.