



## 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



### FIFTH SUNDAY *of* EASTER

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024

Watch live: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NU5E6G-b9KM>

*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 Know That My Redeemer Lives* – arr. Raymond H. Haan  
Linda Sweetman Waters, Organ

WELCOME *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ Rev. Bruce Ballantine

#### CALL *to* WORSHIP

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.  
Worship the Lord with gladness.  
Come into God's presence with singing!

**For the Lord is a gracious God,  
whose mercy is everlasting;  
and whose faithfulness endures to all generations.**

\*HYMN 464 - *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

#### 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

\*HYMN 579 – *Gloria Patri*

\*PASSING *of the* PEACE

#### ANTHEM

*Be Still, My Soul* - Jean Sibelius, arr. Dan Bird  
The Chancel Choir

Linda Sweetman Waters, Organ  
Dr. Edward Schmiedecke, Director

*Be still, my soul, the Lord is on thy side; bear patiently the cross of grief or pain. Leave to thy God to order and provide; in every change He faithful will remain. Be still, my soul! Thy best, thy heavenly Friend through thorny ways leads to a joyful end. Be still, my soul! Thy God doth undertake to guide the future as He has the past. Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul! The waves and winds still know His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below. Be still, my soul! The hour is hastening on when we shall be forever with the Lord; when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone, sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored. Be still, my soul! When change and tears are past, all safe and blessed, we shall meet at last. Be still, be still.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MaryEllen Castaldo ~ Director of Children and Family Ministries

FIRST READING ~ Diane Eliya

Acts 8:26-40

SECOND READING ~ Diane Eliya

Psalm 22:25-31

SERMON

*A Guide Along the Journey* ~ Rev. Bruce Ballantine

MUSICAL OFFERING

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* – Antonin Dvorak

Josh LeRose, Tenor

*Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to Earth, come down; Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art visit us with Thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart. Finish, then, Lord, Thy new creation; Pure and spotless let us be; Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee; Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place, Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love and praise.*

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**

PRAYER of DEDICATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

RECEPTION of NEW MEMBERS

\*HYMN 438 - *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* – Diane Bish

Linda Sweetman Waters, Organ

*Today we are pleased to welcome the following into the membership of First Presbyterian Church:*

*Grace Albergate, Joanne Hare, Peter Hare, Damian Wall and Lindsay Wall.*

*Grace, Joanne, Peter, Damian and Lindsay, we rejoice in your presence among us!*

CHANCEL FLOWERS

*Chancel Flowers are given by Dennis Yachechak in memory of his mother Lucy.*

\*Please stand if you are able.

SCRIPTURE READINGS  
*for* SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup> Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup> He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” <sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

SECOND READING

Psalm 22:25-31

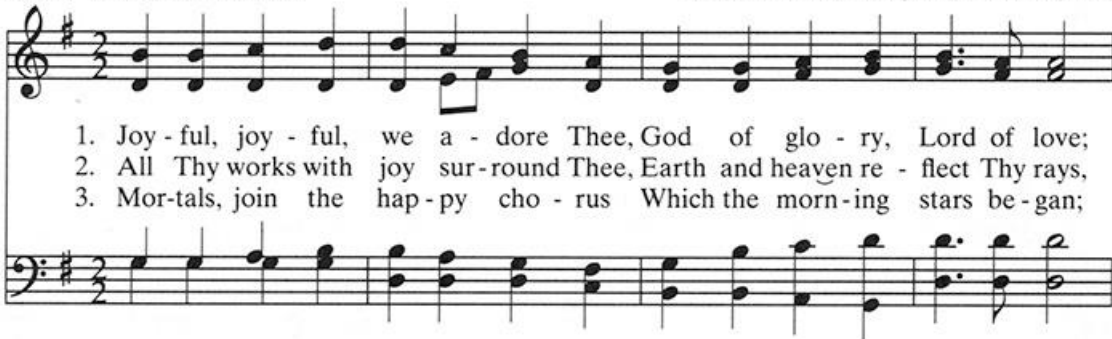
<sup>25</sup> From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. <sup>26</sup> The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever! <sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. <sup>28</sup> For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations. <sup>29</sup> To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. <sup>30</sup> Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, <sup>31</sup> and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

## Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

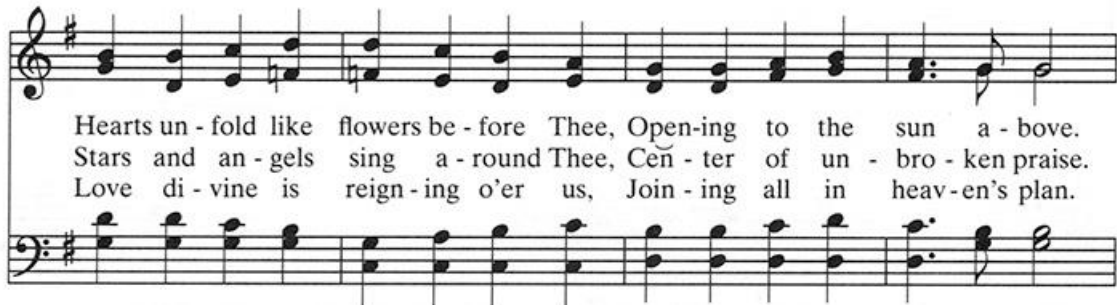
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HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7 D

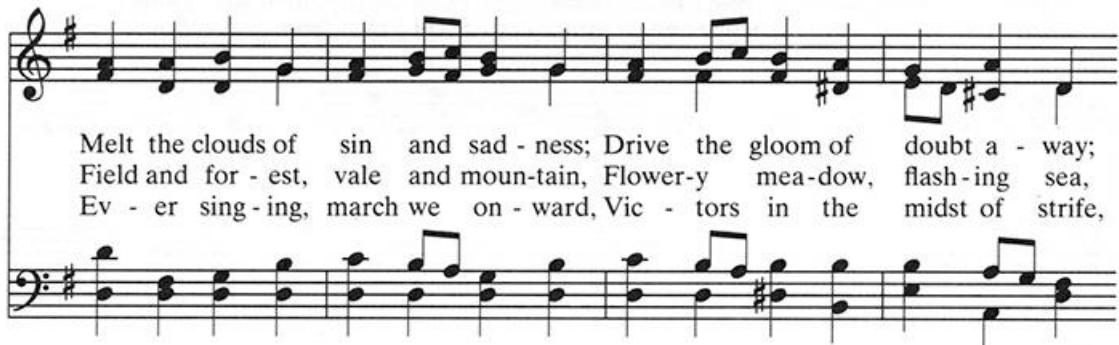
Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.

Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824  
Adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867); alt.


1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
2. All Thy works with joy sur - round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,  
3. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.  
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
Love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, Join - ing all in heav - en's plan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; Drive the gloom of doubt a - way;  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flower - y mea - dow, flash - ing sea,  
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.  
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life.

## Blest Be the Tie That Binds

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DENNIS SM

Johann Georg Nägeli (1773-1836)

Arr. Lowell Mason, 1845

John Fawcett, 1782



1. Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris-tian love;  
 2. Be - fore our \*Fa - ther's throne We pour our ar - dent prayers;  
 3. We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
 4. From sor - row, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free;



The fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.  
 Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our com-forts and our cares.  
 And of - ten for each oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz-ing tear.  
 And per - fect love and friend-ship reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty.



\*Or "Maker's."