



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



FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

Watch live: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZLaNs9soQM>

*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

How Calm and Beautiful the Morn – arr. Raymond H. Haan
Linda Sweetman Waters, Organ

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ Rev. Bruce Ballantine

MINUTE for MINISTRY ~ Robin Byrne
Rise Against Hunger

CALL to WORSHIP

We gather in the name of the living Christ to worship God.
Surely, God is in this place and calls us to worship in spirit and in truth.
God's love is for you and for all people everywhere.
**That we may share God's love and life, that we may be renewed
in the refreshing Spirit of the living Christ.**

The living Christ is with us.

Praise the Lord!

*HYMN 417 - *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

*HYMN 579 – *Gloria Patri*

*PASSING of the PEACE

ANTHEM

Faithful Servant - Cindy Berry
Text taken from Matthew 25: 34-36
The Chancel Choir Linda Sweetman Waters, Piano
Dr. Edward Schmiedecke, Director

Lord, we would be faithful; Lord, we would follow You. We would be pure and holy, devoted and true. At the end of our journey, on that glorious day, when we gaze into Your eyes, we want to hear You say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant. Enter into my kingdom. You have fought the fight, you have kept the faith, according to my Word. Well done, my good and faithful servant. Great is your reward. You have been faithful, now your race is run. Well done, my servant, well done! For I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me drink. You served others in my name. You shared the gospel without shame. And you were light in the darkness; you were strength for the weary; you were my messengers to share the gospel of love. Well done....!"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MaryEllen Castaldo ~ Director of Children and Family Ministries

PSALTER READING ~ Shane Strickland
Psalm 23

EPISTLE READING ~ Shane Strickland
1 John 3:16-24

SERMON
Open Hearts and Open Hands ~ Rev. Bruce Ballantine

MUSICAL OFFERING
Oh, My Shepherd Is the Lord – Antonin Dvorak
Mike Schuil, Baritone

Oh my shepherd is the Lord I shall not want shall want for nothing. In the soft pastures green and beside waters clear. He leadeth me. He restoreth my soul leadeth me in the paths where I shall glorify His name. Even though I must walk through the valley of the shadow of death. I shall fear shall fear no evil for Thou art with me now. And Thy rod and Thy staff they shall comfort me.



venmo

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

PRAYERS *of the* PEOPLE *and* THE LORD'S PRAYER

In the blessed hope of the resurrection, we pray to the Lord of endless life, saying:
By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

Life-giving God, we pray for the church. Build us up in faith, hope and love upon the cornerstone of Jesus Christ our Savior. Let us be a living sign of your love for all the world.

Silent Prayer

By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

Life-giving God, we pray for the world. Gather up the scattered peoples of the earth. Lift up the lost and the disenfranchised; deliver the weak and the vulnerable from danger. Help our leaders shepherd the poor to safety.

Silent Prayer

By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

Life-giving God, we pray for our communities. Translate our words of love into action. Teach those among us who have plenty to care for sisters and brothers who need our help. Give us voices to speak up for the oppressed.

Silent Prayer

By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

Life-giving God, we pray for loved ones as well as those who feel that nobody loves them. Help those who suffer and those who grieve; restore them, body and soul. Walk beside them through every dark valley. Feed them with mercy; anoint them with healing.

Silent Prayer

By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

Life-giving God, we pray for all who have been impacted by wars around the world, including the people of Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Sudan. We ask that you would be a Shepherd to all those who find themselves living in the dark valley of fear, those who are mourning the loss of loved ones, and those struggling to find safety, food and shelter. Hasten, we pray, the day when nations beat swords into plowshares; hasten the day when we go to war no more.

Silent Prayer

By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

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 – *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love* (please see attached)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Welcome, Happy Morning – arr. Charles W. Ore
Linda Sweetman Waters, Organ

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Chancel Flowers are given by Dave and Mary Shaw
in loving memory of their parents and other beloved family members.

*Please stand if you are able.

SCRIPTURE READINGS *for SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024*

PSALTER READING

Psalm 23

¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; ³ he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

GOSPEL READING

1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶ We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷ How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹ And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation 417

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7

7th century, Latin

Trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1861, 1972

Henry Thomas Smart, 1867

1. Christ is made the sure foun-da - tion, Christ the head and
 2. To this tem - ple, where we call You, Come, O Lord of
 3. Here be - stow on all Your ser - vants What they ask of
 4. Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Laud and hon - or

cor - ner - stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 Hosts, to - day; With Your wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness
 You to gain, What they gain from You for - ev - er
 to the Son, Laud and hon - or to the Spir - it,

Bind - ing all the church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's
 Hear Your peo - ple as they pray, And Your full - est
 With the bless - ed to re - tain, And here - af - ter
 Ev - er three and ev - er one; One in might and

help for - ev - er, And our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in its walls al - way.
 in Your glo - ry Ev - er - more with You to reign.
 one in glo - ry While un - end - ing a - ges run.

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Capo 1: (Em)

Fm

(Bm)

Cm

(Em)

Fm



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,

(Am)

B^bm

(Em)

Fm



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,

(Am)

B^bm

(Em)

Fm



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:

Refrain

(C)

D^b

(Em)

Fm



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

(Am)

B^bm

(Em)

Fm

(Am)

B^bm

(Bm)

Cm

(Em) (Am/E) (Em)

Fm B^bm/F Fm

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