



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 SIXTH SUNDAY *after* EPIPHANY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025

Watch live: <https://www.youtube.com/live/to-hoOMc7aE>

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PRELUDE

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say – Dale Wood
Linda Sweetman Waters, Organ

WELCOME *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ Rev. Bruce Ballantine

MINUTE *for* MINISTRY – Don Peterfriend, Hobbyists President
Hobbyists Unlimited

CALL *to* WORSHIP

God is waiting for us
with a tender heart and searching questions.

God is ready for us

With truth and wisdom from a deep well.

God is blessing us

With springs of living water.

God is sending us

to love and witness every day.

God is here.

Let the conversation begin.

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

PRAYER *of* CONFESSION

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves, and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors, and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. In your great mercy forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE *of* FORGIVENESS

*HYMN 579 – *Gloria Patri*

*PASSING *of the* PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING

Total Praise - Richard Smallwood, arr. Carol Cymbala
The Chancel Choir ~ Dr. Edward Schmiedecke, Director

Lord, I will lift my eyes to the hills, knowing my help is coming from You. Your peace You give me in time of the storm. You are the source of my strength, You are the strength of my life. I lift my hands in total praise to You. Amen.

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 ~ Dana Feeney

Psalm 1

GOSPEL READING ~ Dana Feeney

Luke 6:17-26

SERMON

Straight Talk from the Mouth of Jesus – Rev. Bruce Ballantine

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

Lord of all creation, we know your heart aches for all who suffer. Sometimes, it seems the only thing we can do is pray. Sometimes, it seems all we can do is keep the suffering in our thoughts. Help us understand when and how we can be your agents of change - when and how we can be part of the answer to our prayers. This morning, our thoughts and prayers are with your children.

For the children of God around the world who go to bed hungry.
God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the children of God whose world is rocked by violence.
God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the children of God who continue to rebuild their lives following natural disasters.
God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the children of God who have no permanent shelter.
God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the children of God who lack necessary health care.
God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the children of God who struggle with demons.
God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the children of God who await a diagnosis.
God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the children of God who mourn the loss of loved ones.
God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the children of God who face difficult decisions.
God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the children of God who feel they have no purpose.
God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give these prayers and all of our heartfelt thoughts to you,
O God, knowing you have heard not only the concerns we have spoken,
but the concerns in our hearts as well. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

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 Tithely,
place an offering in the plate as it is passed,
or mail a check to the church office. Thank you!



OFFERTORY SOLO

Deep River - arr. H.T. Burleigh
Edward Schmiedecke, Baritone

Deep river, my home is over Jordan, deep river, I want to cross over into campground. Oh, don't you want to go to that gospel feast, that promised land where all is peace? O deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.

*DOXOLOGY – Hymn 592

*PRAYER of DEDICATION

*HYMN 339 - *Be Thou My Vision*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Blessed is the House Where Jesus Christ Dwells – Johann Pachelbel
Linda Sweetman Waters, Organ

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Chancel Flowers are given by Jan Cross in celebration of her son David's birthday on February 15.

*Please stand if you are able.

SCRIPTURE READINGS for SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025

PSALTER READING

Psalm 1

¹ Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; ² but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. ⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; ⁶ for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 6:17-26

¹⁷ He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. ²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²² "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. ²⁴ "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵ "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶ "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

465 Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather

TOKYO 7.5.7.5 D

Tokuo Yamaguchi, 1958
Trans. Everett M. Stowe, 1958; alt. 1972Japanese 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.

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE 10.10.9.10

Ancient Irish poem
 Trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905
 Vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912; alt.

Irish ballad
 Harm. David Evans, 1927

1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 3. Be Thou my wis - dom, and Thou my true word;

Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art—
 Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
 Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.
 Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.