



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 NINETEENTH SUNDAY *after* PENTECOST SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2025

Watch live: <https://www.youtube.com/live/Gwo8e8N3rrg>

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PRELUDE

I Feel My Savior's Love – K. Newell Dayley
Christopher Vehmas, Organ

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ Rev. Bruce Ballantine

MINUTE for MINISTRY ~ Tom Gibson
Capital Campaign Update

CALL to WORSHIP

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing, and give praise to God's name;
tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.

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

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Sovereign God, we confess that we have not turned away from sin. You call us to study the Scriptures, but we are easily distracted. You ask us to be persistent in prayer, but we are quickly discouraged. Forgive us, God of grace. Write your Word in our hearts, so that we may truly know you and joyfully serve you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

*HYMN 579 – *Gloria Patri*

*PASSING of the PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING

Go Forth Into the World in Peace - John Rutter
The Chancel Choir

Dr. Edward Schmiedecke, Conductor

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage. Hold fast that which is good, render to no one evil for evil, strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the afflicted, honor all people. Love and serve the Lord rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost be upon you, and remain with you for ever. 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 ~ Psalm 121

Rita Infante

EPISTLE READING ~ 2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5

Rita Infante

SERMON ~ Rev. Bruce Ballantine

Finding Ourselves in God's Story

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Trusting in the power of God to deliver us,
let us make our prayers of intercession for all, saying: God our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church. Keep us faithful in proclaiming your Word,
sharing the good news of salvation and carrying out the ministry of Christ.

Silent Prayer

God our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world. God, as we continue to pray for peace in the war zones of the world, we give you thanks for the cease-fire in Gaza. And we pray, asking that this halt in the fighting will become a first step toward a lasting peace between Israel and Hamas. Finally, we pray for the end of conflict and the beginning of peace in such places as Ukraine, Lebanon, Syria, Sudan and Myanmar.

Silent Prayer

God our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our communities. Draw all people together, regardless of faith, to seek justice, welcome strangers, and serve one another for the common good.

Silent Prayer

God our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for loved ones. Be with those who feel forgotten or left out, those who are suffering or mourning, those battling illness, those struggling with addiction, and those who face tough choices today.

Silent Prayer

God our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful and mighty God, as you are one, make us one with you through Jesus Christ,
whom you have sent to redeem us, and in whose holy name we pray.

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.**



 Tithe.ly

CALL to OFFERING

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



 Tithe.ly

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Psalm 25 from Biblical Songs, by Antonin Dvorak

Mike Schuil, Baritone

Oh Lord, have mercy and turn Thou Thy face to me for my soul is desolate and sore distressed. The troubles of my heart lie heavy upon me. From my distress, save me, Lord. Have mercy upon me. Look on my affliction and my pain and forgive me my heavy sins. Oh Lord, my soul deliverer, let me not be ashamed. For I trust in Thee, Lord.

*DOXOLOGY – Hymn 592

*PRAYER of DEDICATION

SACRAMENT of BAPTISM

*HYMN 498 - *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Indescribable – Laura Story

Christopher Vehmas, Piano

Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism today are Colton Joseph Toshio Galdieri and Ryan Michael Kikuo Galdieri, sons of Michael and Sarah Galdieri. We rejoice with Colton and Ryan and their family on this significant day in their lives.

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Chancel Flowers are given by Krystina Dickinson

to honor the anniversary of the passing of her mother, Barbara Pastusczak.

*Please stand if you are able.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

for SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2025

PSALTER READING

Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come? ² My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. ³ He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴ He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵ The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. ⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷ The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. ⁸ The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

EPISTLE READING

2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. ⁴ ¹ In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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.

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498 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1980

KINGDOM 8.7.8.7

V. Earle Copes, 1959

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily in the Soprano part. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, each corresponding to a line of the musical score. The first line of the score includes a list of four verses. The second line of the score includes a four-line stanza. The third line of the score includes a four-line stanza. The fourth line of the score includes a four-line stanza. The score ends with a double bar line.

1. Child of bless - ing, child of prom - ise, Bap - tized with the Spir - it's sign,
2. Child of love, our love's ex - pres - sion, Love's cre - a - tion, loved in - deed!
3. Child of joy, our dear - est trea - sure, God's you are, from God you came.
4. Child of God, your lov - ing Par - ent, Learn to lis - ten for God's call.

With this wa - ter God has sealed you Un - to love and grace di - vine.
Fresh from God, re - fresh our spir - its, In - to joy and laugh - ter lead.
Back to God we hum - bly give you: Live as one who bears Christ's name.
Grow to laugh and sing and wor - ship, Trust and love God more than all.

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