

The First Presbyterian Church in Pitman, NJ
The Fourth Sunday of Easter
& the Sacrament of Communion
Sunday, May 7, 2017 @ 10 AM – Rev. Paul Grenier

For Prayer & Contemplation

“The Christian must bear the burden of a brother. He must suffer and endure the brother. It is only when he is a burden that another person is really a brother and not merely an object to be manipulated. The burden of men was so heavy for God Himself that He had to endure the Cross. God verily bore the burden of men in the body of Jesus Christ. But He bore them as a mother carries her child, as a shepherd enfolds the lost lamb that has been found. God took men upon Himself and they weighted Him to the ground, but God remained with them and they with God. In bearing with men God maintained fellowship with them. It was the law of Christ that was fulfilled in the Cross. And Christians must share in this law.”

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Welcome & Sharing Information Please sign the Fellowship Pad.

Prelude “Shall We Gather At the River?” - arr. Hobby

Call to Worship (Adapted from UCC Worship Ways)

One: We are called here for a purpose: We gather to worship, for the sake of knowing and drawing close toward God.

All: We are not here by chance, but because we are drawn to the source of all goodness.

One: We are chosen and gathered as special stones by the builder, but together as the church our lives are being built up into a spiritual sanctuary where the justice and mercy and peace of the Risen Christ may dwell.

All: We are not here by chance, but because God is doing a new thing through us.

One: Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

All: Jesus, we are the sheep of your pasture, we call out for your protection and guidance. You have chosen us and we have chosen you. We are not here by chance. Amen.

***Hymn No. 375** “Shall We Gather at the River”

Prayer of Renewal

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow humbly where he leads. But grant that we are even more than sheep, meek and mild in this world. Help us to become as zealous as the lioness to protect our brothers and sisters. (Continues...)

(...Prayer of Renewal Continued)

Give us the vision of the Eagle that can soar above and see beyond our own pasture. And build us up to have the strength of the ox to bear the burdens of our world, in your Holy Name.

Moment of Silence

Assurance of Forgiveness

***Hymn No. 581** “Glory Be to the Father”

“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.”

Passing of Peace

Anthem Sanctuary Choir - “This Touch of Love” - Burkhardt

Time with Children (Dismissal to Sunday School)

Pastor: It is time for you to depart.

Adults: God be with you there.

Children: God be with you here.

Scripture Acts 2:42-47 (NT 120 | LP 145-6)

Sermon “The Beloved Community” –Rev. Paul Grenier

Presentation of Tithes/Offering

Offertory “Shall We Gather At the River?” - arr. Carter

***Doxology No. 606**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

Good Shepherd of the Sheep, you have opened the door to new life for us through your dedication and your sacrifice. May we reflect your love for us by opening the doors of our hearts to you and your church through our offerings. May our gifts be acceptable to you, O Lord, in the name of your Son Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to Communion

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise to God.

Great Communal Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: we thank you for the blessed miracle of the death and resurrection of Jesus that continues to give us hope and salvation today. As we prepare to receive the sacrament of communion we pray that you open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

One: Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

All: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

The Prayers of the People

The family of Diane Taylor, Dorothy Richardson, Sabine Roecker, Kelly Graf, Nick Russo, the family of Brittany Foulk, Dave Wible, Shirley Murphy, Evelyn Gallo, Donna Dietrich, Nic Albadine, Andy Roesler, Allison Daminger, Lynda Ford, the family of Helen Taylor, Sharon Conley, Douglas Hoffman, Michael Allen, Patricia Collins, Phyllis Bullock-Beaufait, Dolores Cheesman and family, Fred & Doris Oltmann, Gary Wriggins, Cathy Russo, Marie Roberts, Deborah McLaverty, Dot Clay, Glenn Raudenbush, Erin Fitzpatrick, Montana Lovelace-LaPierre

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.

Words of Institution Rev. Paul Grenier

Blessing of Bread:

ברוך אתה ה' א-לוהינו, מלך העולם, המוציא לחם מן הארץ

Translation: “Blessed are You, LORD our God, King of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.”

Blessing of Wine:

ברוך אתה ה' א-לוהינו, מלך העולם, בורא פרי העץ

Translation: “Blessed are You, LORD our God, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.”

***Communion Hymn No. 525** "Let Us Break Bread Together"

(Communion Servers, please come forward.)

Ushers will direct the congregation to come forward by pews, forming two lines to receive communion through intinction.

The Sharing of the Supper

Unison Prayer After Communion

Almighty God, who came to Earth so that we, your people, may reach to the Heavens; we thank you for this sacred meal that reminds us of your love and renews our spirits. We accept your gift of salvation and willingly strive to follow your example no matter the cost of discipleship. Help us to extend the boundaries of this community and continue to invite others to your table. Amen.

***Hymn No. 506** "Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table!"

Benediction

Benediction Hymn No. 295 "Go to the World!"

"Go to the world! Go as the ones I send, for I am with you till the age shall end, when all the hosts of glory cry 'Amen!' Alleluia. Alleluia."

Postlude "Now, My Tongue, the Mystery Telling" - arr. Blersch

**Please stand as you are able.*

Please be advised that our worship service is filmed from the balcony. Though the camera's focus is primarily on the chancel, there are wide shots that may include parts of the congregation sitting near the front.

Please promptly pick your children up from Sunday School at the conclusion of our worship service, and join us for coffee and fellowship in the Social Hall – all are welcome!

Thank you to our Worship Servers	
Communion Servers	Patty Januszewski, Bobbi Wilkins, Jennifer Grenier, Jim Smathers
Acolyte	William Enever
Liturgist	Karla Langlois
Greeter	Mildred Haines
Ushers	Linda Waller, Karen Daly
Tellers	Glenn Stevick, Steve Langlois, Karen Daly



Sanctuary Flowers

In memory of *Patricia Horton*, given by Vicki & Jeff Downing



Music Notes

Today's prelude and offertory are settings by two different contemporary composers of the same hymn tune, "Hanson Place." Robert Lowry, a Baptist minister, wrote the words and tune of this hymn in 1864. The postlude is Jeffrey Blersch's 2014 setting of a communion hymn first published in Paris in 1881. The anthem is a communion hymn written in 2015 by Michael Burkhardt. We thank the Sanctuary Choir for sharing special music with us this morning.

This Week's Birthdays

- May 7 | *Robin Euler*
- May 8 | *Stephen Hwang*
- May 8 | *Kurt Leach*
- May 9 | *Jake Scott*
- May 11 | *Elizabeth Nicastro*
- May 12 | *Dan Enright*
- May 14 | *Drew Staman*



<i>This Week May 7-14</i>	
Sunday 7	8:30 AM Deacons – Memorial Lounge 10 AM Worship 11:15 AM Sunshine Singers End of Year Party – Upstairs Kitchen 6 PM Youth Group – Social Hall
Monday 8	7 PM Property Committee – Church Library
Tuesday 9	
Wednesday 10	7 PM Pastor Nominating Committee – ML
Thursday 11	9 AM Preschool Mother's Day Tea – SH 7 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 8 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Friday 12	8 PM Rowan Student Saxophone Recital – Sanctuary/Social Hall
Saturday 13	8:30 AM Pedal for Promise 9:30 AM PW Core Board – Upstairs Kitchen
Sunday 14	<i>Mother's Day</i> 10 AM Worship



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN PITMAN

"God's Open House"

10 Wildwood Avenue
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(856) 589-1050



Sunday Worship Service @ 10 AM
Communion on the first Sunday of the month
Sunday School every week, 10:20-11:05 AM

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