



First Presbyterian Church of Newton

10:30 AM FEBRUARY 25, 2024

* indicates when to rise in body or in spirit
(PH denotes The Presbyterian Hymnal
STF denotes Sing the Faith Hymnal)

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION

i just realized
that in my imagination
the wilderness is always somewhere else;
a foreign landscape i actively have to enter
in the act of being faithful.

truthfully,
the wilderness is always where i am
right now
and faith is the courage to stay with it
when i'd rather pretend i am
anywhere else.

~ written by Cheryl Lawrie and posted on [[hold this space](#)]

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

"It is Well With My Soul"

Bell Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: As darkness gives way to light and winter sleep to fresh beginnings,

All: **We come today to be reminded of God's love for us.**

One: Like the green shoots of renewed life, stirring beneath the soil,

All: **We welcome an awakening of God's word in our lives.**

One: In this time of reflection and repentance,

All: **We affirm our identity, we claim our security, as children of God.**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND HOPE

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected injustice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy on us, O God, and forgive our sin.

(A Time of Silent Prayer follows)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, hear the Good News: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus to us, not to condemn the world but in order that we might be saved -healed and forgiven- through Christ.

People: Thanks be to God!

***SUNG RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS** *“Though I May Speak”* vs 3 TUNE: O WALY WALY

*Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
By this we worship and are freed.*

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

God of mercy, you promised never to break your covenant with us.
In the midst of the multitude of words in our daily lives,
speak your eternal Word to us,
that we may respond to your gracious promises
with faithfulness, service and love.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 22:23-31

Leader: For the Lord does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
God does not hide from them; but when they cry God hears them.
My praise is of the Lord in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship God.

People: **The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD
shall give praise: “May your heart live forever!”**

Leader: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations shall bow down.
For reigning belongs to the LORD; who rules over the nations.

People: **To God alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust fall before the LORD.
My soul shall live for God; my descendants shall serve the LORD;
they shall be known as the LORD’S forever. They shall come and
make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that God has
done.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly.

And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

Jesus called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

MESSAGE “Think About It”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Confession of 1967, 9.08

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all.

Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared human needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows.

Jesus expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful people. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes.

Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which all people stand convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.

*HYMN STF #2025

“As the Deer”

See Insert

CALL TO OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD’S SERVICE

OFFERTORY

“What Wondrous Love is This”

Bell Choir

* RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE PH 591 “Praise God”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Alice Sharick

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF PRAYER JOYS and CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ending with the LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

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

GOING OUT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST

*HYMN PH #467

"How Great Thou Art"

See Insert

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

~~~~~

Liturgical Resources: Photo from Unsplash, David Billings;

Call To Worship: Gill Le Fevre; Call To Confession:

Beth Merrill Neal; Prayer of Confession and Hope, Book of Common Worship.

We thank our Worship Leader April Fisher  
and the Ushers/Greeters this morning.

**E-Giving - *It makes giving easy!***

**E-Giving** is a convenient way to support our ministries. Here's how:



*Scan Me*

Scan the QR Code to make a donation through your smart phone. **OR**

Go to the church website, [fpcnewtonnj.org](http://fpcnewtonnj.org) and click on the **E-donate** button and sign up using your email and a password. You can make a one-time donation or sign up for automatic recurring donations.

**More comfortable using a check?** No problem, just drop a check in the mail.

***As always, we thank you for your generosity and support!***

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AT  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWTON  
Week of February 25, 2024**

- Sun. 2/25    9:00 am Adult Study & Prayer  
                  9:00 am Faith Formation classes  
                  9:00 am Worship in the Chapel  
                  9:45 am Family Choir Practice  
                  10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary  
                  11:30 am Ukrainian Egg Decorating  
                  1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Girl Scouts  
                  4:00 pm - 7:00 pm Youth Group Photo Scavenger Hunt
- Mon. 2/26    10:00 am Wired Word  
                  7:00 pm Pastor Nominating Committee Meeting (First Meeting)
- Tue. 2/27    7:00 pm Jubilee Women at Jane MacDonald's Home
- Wed. 2/28    7:15 pm Session  
                  8:00 pm Midweek Vespers via Zoom
- Thur. 2/29    7:00 pm Bell Choir
- Fri. 3/1        1:00 pm Hearts and Hands
- Sun. 3/3        Communion  
                  Hearts and Hands Craft Sale  
                  9:00 am Adult Study & Prayer  
                  9:00 am Faith Formation classes  
                  9:00 am Worship in the Chapel  
                  9:30 am Family Choir Practice  
                  10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary  
                  5:00 pm-7:00 pm Youth Group - Pizza!

\*Our service can also be found on our YouTube channel sometime after 3 pm.  
Go to: [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) and search for: fpcnewtonnj

## **Our Staff**

Interim Pastor Heather Morrison-Yaden  
[heathermorrisonyaden@gmail.com](mailto:heathermorrisonyaden@gmail.com)

Assoc. Family Nurture Colleen Duffy  
[colleen.duffy@fpcnewtonnj.org](mailto:colleen.duffy@fpcnewtonnj.org)

Office Administrator Janet Lasko  
[admin@fpcnewtonnj.org](mailto:admin@fpcnewtonnj.org)

Treasurer Jane MacDonald  
[treas@fpcnewtonnj.org](mailto:treas@fpcnewtonnj.org)

Organist Ann Socha

Bell Choir Director Melinda Kline

Choir Director Cate Pasculli

Child Care Heather Woods

~~~~~

Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Church Email Address: admin@fpcnewtonnj.org

Church Telephone # 973-383-4420

54 High Street, Newton NJ

Church Web Site Address: www.fpcnewtonnj.org facebook.com/FPCNJ
www.youtube.com (Search for: "fpcnewtonnj")

