



First Presbyterian Church of Newton

10:30 AM MARCH 10, 2024

* indicates when to rise in body or in spirit

(PH denotes The Presbyterian Hymnal
STF denotes Sing the Faith Hymnal)

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION

“Plans are made. Plans come apart. New delights or tragedies pop up in their place. And nothing human or divine will map out this life, this life that has been more painful than I could have imagined. More beautiful than I could have imagined.”

— Kate Bowler, [Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved](#)

GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The promises of God are like bulbs deep in the soil,

People: **God is making all things new.**

Leader: The promises of God are like crocuses
peeking out of the snow,

People: **God is making all things new.**

Leader: The promises of God are like fresh turned earth,

People: **God is making all things new.**

Leader: The promises of God are all around us,
though we cannot perceive it yet—

People: **God is making all things new.**

Leader: Come, worship our God,
for we know the seasons will change,

People: **And our God will make all things new.**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND HOPE

Loving and gracious God, you are so patient with us.

We run away, and you seek us.

We make foolish choices, and you teach us the better way.

We hurt you and others, and instead of hurting us back, you forgive us.

Help us, we pray; help us reveal your glory and goodness in our living,

That we will bear the imprint of Christ throughout the world.

(A Time of Silent Prayer follows)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, hear the Good News:

the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting.

Let us believe and proclaim the Good News:

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***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)

Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word;

and give us grace that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way
of your wisdom; through Christ our Lord.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good,
 for God's steadfast love endures forever.

People: **Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
 those God redeemed from trouble and gathered in
 from the lands, from the east and from the west,
 from the north and from the south.**

Leader: Some were sick or acted as fools through their sinful ways
 and because of their iniquities endured affliction;

People: **they loathed any kind of food,
 and they drew near to the gates of death.**

Leader: Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
 and God saved them from their distress;

People: **God sent out God's word and healed them
 and delivered them from destruction.**

Leader: Let them thank the Lord for God's steadfast love,
 for God's wonderful works to humankind.

People: **Let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices
 and tell of God's deeds with songs of joy.**

BUCKET BRIGADE AND TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

MESSAGE

“More Than...”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF CHRIST

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from Confession of Belhar)

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family. We believe ... that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways;

in that we love one another;

that we experience, practice, and pursue community with one another;

that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another.

*HYMN

“O God, Who Gives Us Life”

See Insert

CALL TO OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD’S SERVICE

OFFERTORY

* 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

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 #422 “*God, Whose Giving Knows Now Ending*”

See Insert

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

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Liturgical Resources: Call To Worship: Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell; Prayer of Confession: Beth Merrill Neel. Photo by Johannes Plenio at Unsplash.

We thank our Worship Leaders Caitlyn Ruitenbergh and Savannah DeMartini 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 March 10, 2024**

- Sun. 3/10    **Bucket Brigade:** Second Sunday loose change collection to help fight hunger in our community.  
              **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**  
              **1:00 pm - 2:30 pm *Girl Scouts***  
              **5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Youth Group**
- Mon. 3/11    **Easter Flower Orders Due**  
              **10:00 am Wired Word**
- Tue. 3/12    **5:00 pm - 6:30 pm *Manna House Spaghetti Dinner***  
              **7:00 pm Deacons**
- Wed. 3/13    **8:00 pm Midweek Vespers via Zoom**
- Thur. 3/14    **10:00 am FPCN serves at Manna House**  
              **7:00 pm Bell Choir**
- Fri. 3/15    **Newsletter Deadline**  
              **1:00 pm Hearts and Hands**
- Sun. 3/17    **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**  
              **9:45 am - 10:15 am Chime Choir Practice**  
              **10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary**  
              **12 Noon Milk and Honey Cooking School**  
              **NO Youth Group**

## 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

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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")