



Christ is risen.

First Presbyterian Church of Newton

10:30 AM APRIL 7, 2024

** indicates when to rise
in body or in spirit*

(PH denotes *The Presbyterian Hymnal*)

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION

"The Easter eggs symbolize our ability to break out of the hardened, protective shell we've surrounded ourselves with -- that limits our thoughts and beliefs. As we break open our hearts and minds, we discover a transformation to new life enhancing thoughts and beliefs." - Siobhan Shaw

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

- Leader: We come to worship God,
who has shared both grace and power,
- People: **We have longed and prepared for this joyous Eastertide:**
- Leader: On Ash Wednesday we humbled ourselves before you,
- People: **On Palm Sunday we began to see where
Jesus was headed.**
- Leader: On Maundy Thursday we learned a new commandment,
- People: **On Good Friday we cried at the foot of the cross,**
- Leader: On Holy Saturday we were betwixt and between.
- People: **On Easter we entered a new time filled with
Christ's risen power of love, hope, grace, and new life.**
- ALL: **We hope God will make this rising real in our own lives,
that we may be people of love, hope, joy and new life.**

* HYMN PH #108 “*Christ Is Alive*” (vs 1-2)

See Insert

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, we confess that at times we are skeptics. At times we doubt that You exist because of the evil we have seen in the world. Oppression, marginalization, and plain hate still plague our world, and it is hard to see Your love and light.

Sometimes, even those of us who bear Your name do not walk in Your ways. You are a God of grace, and yet despair, pain, and fear are part of our human life; sometimes we let them guide us. Sometimes we let them hold us back from living your way, and we lose sight of your strong love. Help us be a brave and holy people, living beyond fear. Teach us to trust in your steadfast love. Help us to see Your goodness in this world. Help us to know Your love. Fill us with Your love and goodness, so that we might love one another, and lift up one another in faith.

(A Moment of Silence)

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

Leader: This is the good news: God raised Jesus from death,
turning sorrow into joy and despair into hope.

People: Hallelujah!

*SONG OF JOY “*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*” (verse 1) PH #464

*Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.*

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CHOIR ANTHEM “*Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*”

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord.

RESPONSIVE READING Acts 4:32-35

Leader: Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul,

People: and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common.

Leader: With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

People: There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”

Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

MESSAGE

“Putting it into Practice”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast:
that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,
that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day,
and that he appeared first to the women,
then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.
We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.
Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end;
Christ is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

CALL TO OFFER OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*** 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 DEDICATION**

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

*** HYMN PH #150 “Come, Christians Join to Sing” ”**

See Insert

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING OF THE COMMUNION MEAL

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (in unison)

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love. We are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy. We are now commissioned to:

feed as we have been fed,
forgive as we have been forgiven,
love as we have been loved.

Thanks be to God for all you have brought to us, including the power to rise up and share your joy with all the world.

GOING OUT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST

* HYMN PH #108

“*Christ Is Alive*” (vs 3-5)

See Insert

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

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We thank our Worship Leader Betsy Hall,  
and our Communion Servers and Ushers/Greeters this morning.

### Liturgical Resources:

Our Affirmation of Faith this morning comes from the Presbyterian *Book of Common Worship* and is a paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 15:1-6, as well as the Gospel accounts of the Resurrection.

### **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!***

## OUR STAFF

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

Assoc. Family Nurture Colleen Duffy  
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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](mailto:admin@fpcnewtonnj.org)

Church Telephone # 973-383-4420

54 High Street, Newton NJ

Church Web Site Address: [www.fpcnewtonnj.org](http://www.fpcnewtonnj.org)    [facebook.com/FPCNJ](https://www.facebook.com/FPCNJ)

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) (Search for: "fpcnewtonnj")

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AT  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWTON  
Week of April 7, 2024**

- Sun. 4/7    **Communion**  
              **9:00 am Adult Study & Prayer**  
              **No Sunday School**  
              **9:00 am Worship in the Chapel**  
              **9:30 am Family Choir Practice**  
              **10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary**
- Mon. 4/8    **10:00 am Wired Word**
- Tues. 4/9    **5:00 pm - 6:30 pm Manna House Spaghetti Dinner**  
              **7:00 pm Deacons Meeting**
- Wed. 4/10   **8:00 pm Midweek Vespers via Zoom**
- Thur. 4/11   **10:00 am FPCN serves at Manna House**  
              **7:00 pm Bell Choir**
- Fri. 4/12    **1:00 - 3:00 pm Hearts and Hands Craft Group**
- Sun. 4/14    **Guest Worship Leader Lisa Gray**  
              **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**  
              **9:45 am Chime Choir**  
              **10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary**  
              **1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Girl Scouts**

**Bucket Brigade:** Second Sunday loose change collection to help fight hunger in our community.

\*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