

First Presbyterian Church

3 Wantage Avenue, P.O. Box 1, Branchville, NJ 07826

Rev. David Young, Interim Co-Pastor; Rev. Dr. Nancy Young, Interim Co-Pastor;
John Gagliardi, Organist; Dawn Latinsics, Music Director; Demetri Savopoulos, Video;
Kathleen Katzenstein, Lay Reader; Alycia Gardner, Administrative Assistant;
Kathleen Katzenstein, Clerk of Session

ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 17, 2024 10:00am
5th Sunday of Lent



GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

BOLD means the congregation reading or singing.

*The congregation standing in body or spirit

WELCOME

PRELUDE

"On the Cross of Calvary"

Richard E Gerig

(Please use this time to prepare your heart and mind for worship.)

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Jesus said, "When I am lifted up, I will draw all people to myself."

PEOPLE: **Blessed be the God of our salvation who bears our burdens
and forgives our sins.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, by the cross and resurrection of Jesus, you lift the suffering world toward hope and transformation and open the way to eternal salvation. As we move ever closer to the passion of Christ, may your law of love be written on our hearts as he draws all people to himself revealing your love for the world. Amen.

***HYMN 473** *(At Home See Page 8)*

For the Beauty of the Earth

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Redeeming God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart,
and have not loved our neighbors as we ought;
we have strayed from your commandments.**

**Do not remember our sins, but forgive our iniquities,
that we may fix our eyes on you and sin no more, through Christ our Lord.**

(our silent prayers continue...)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

LEADER: Sisters and brothers, by faith in Christ, our sins are forgiven.
May we delight in the joy of our salvation.

PEOPLE: Amen!

*GLORIA PATRI

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 THE PEACE

LEADER: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us share signs of reconciliation and peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

PEOPLE: And also with you.

LEADER: Please greet one another with the peace of Christ.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Sacred Jigs"
Violin

Mike Osborne

GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Your Word, O God, has power to change our lives and to create a whole new world. As we meditate on your word this day, fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we may treasure your word with our whole hearts and fix our eyes on you. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 31:27-34

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 51: 1-12, 15-17

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

² **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ **Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**

⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

⁶ **You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

**¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

**¹⁶ For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering,
you would not be pleased.**

**¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

GOSPEL READING: John 12:20-33

SERMON

Learning by Heart

Pastor David Young

WE RESPOND TO GOD

***HYMN 372** (*See Page 9*)

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*from the Iona Community*)

**We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of the One God, Maker and Sustainer
of earth, sea and sky. Born of Mary's womb, faithful to the God of Abraham and
Sarah, Jesus healed the sick, served the poor, and proclaimed heaven on earth.
Condemned by the religious, crucified by the State, he died, but transformed even
death and rose to life eternal. He blessed the disciples with his Holy Spirit and sent
them forth, east and west, north and south. We commit ourselves to Jesus, to one
another as brothers and sisters, and to his mission in the world in the grace of the
Holy Spirit. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

DONATING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS (*See announcements*)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

***THE DOXOLOGY**

***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.***

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

As the high priest Melchizedek blessed Abraham and offered his tithe of bread and wine at your holy altar, so may our gifts be made perfect through Christ to glorify you and bless the world. Amen.

HYMN 357** (See Page 10)O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*****WE GO TO SERVE GOD*****CHARGE AND BENEDICTION*****BENEDICTION RESPONSE - Hymn 586*****3-Fold "Amen"******POSTLUDE***"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"*

Melchior Teschner

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Multiple Ways to Make an Offering:

1. **Text** – Just text the word "GIVE" to 973-874-1277 and follow the link that will be texted back to you. You may make a donation using your credit card, your checking account, or your savings account.
2. **Bill Pay** – Your bank probably offers this option to make donations one-time or on a recurring basis - it's free, and 100% of your gift is received!
3. **Attend** worship in person and put your offering in the plate as it's passed.
4. **Mail** in your donation to: First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 1, Branchville, NJ 07826.
5. **E-giving** – Go to our webpage at: <http://www.fpcbranchville.org> and click the link at the bottom of the page.



Announcements

March 17, 2024

WELCOME! We give you warm greetings on this Fifth Sunday of Lent. We hope you feel welcome here and have been inspired by our worship. Please join us for Coffee Hour and conversation after worship in the Fellowship Hall next door.



FIRST QUARTER LOCAL MISSION - HUNGER! Our first quarterly Local Mission once again focuses on helping to feed the hungry in two local “soup kitchens”: Manna House and Harvest House. Both of these long-running programs have adapted to the changes that come with time as they continue to provide a solid meal to those in need. Your donations will ensure the food and supplies that are needed will be available in order to serve our local population in need. Please help us continue to support these well-established organizations with a check made out to FPCB with “1st Quarterly Mission” in the memo line. If you are in the sanctuary, you can use the special envelopes in the pew. Your donations really make a difference! And, if you have time to contribute, we often need volunteers to help prepare and serve the meals at the First Presbyterian Church of Newton on the 4th Tuesday of the month. You can contact the church office or Bev Simon for more information. It is a wonderful experience!

THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING mission begins with Lent. This event lasts until Easter Sunday and the money we collect will go to help people in need around the globe as well as support the Johnsonburg Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center. You can expect the Congregational OGHS letter to arrive in your inbox or mailbox shortly where we have shared more details regarding the donation and how to contribute. As always, giving to a good cause is good for the soul, so we hope you will take the time to support this annual Presbyterian Church USA effort!



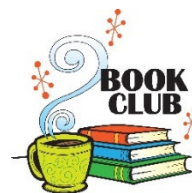
JOIN US FOR WALK N’ TALK: 9AM–10 AM: Monday thru Saturday, all winter, spring, summer, and fall. On Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday we walk around the circle by Selective Insurance, (the old fairgrounds), or through town. We park and meet by the tennis courts. Tuesday at Frankford Park, we park and meet by the basketball court. Thursday at Woodbourne Park, we park and meet by the first parking lot. Any questions – please direct to Beverly Keur. Hope to see you there.

ADULT EDUCATION

- Lenten Soup & Study, “Portraits of Jesus,” began Thursday, February 22nd, 5:30 - 6:45pm, and will continue until Thursday, March 21st. Join us for a delicious soup supper and study. Sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.
- As part of Adult Education, we are trying to see if there would be an interest in traveling to the Baps Hindu Temple in Robbinsville, NJ? It is 2 hours away (outside of Trenton). It is the 2nd largest temple of its kind in the world so please check out the link below and see if you would be interested in visiting. Most likely we will carpool down to keep things easier. There will be a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall if you are interested. BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir - <https://www.baps.org>



- We are trying to see if there would be an interest in starting a Women's Book study, where we would review one book on a Monthly basis and Pastor Nancy is good enough to oversee our group. At our first meeting we are going to visit "The Red Tent" by Anita Diamant. If you are interested, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall.



VBS SUMMER PROGRAM - Frankford Plains UMC is looking to hire a VBS Director for the week of August 12th to 16th, 2024. Please inquire at: frankfordplainschurch@gmail.com or call the church office at 973-702-0334. We are excited to announce that this year we will be supporting Frankford Plains Methodist church in Augusta. They have a very fun and dynamic VBS which has been going for 60+ years! As part of our joint efforts for VBS this year, with Frankford Plains Methodist church, we are in need of some volunteers to help support the program. It will be held Mon - Fri, 9:30-12:30, 8/12 - 8/16. There will be a signup sheet in Fellowship Hall if you are interested.

THE FOOD PANTRY is in need of applesauce. Please consider donating to this continuous need in our community.

THE DAISEY ROE FLEA SPRING FLEA MARKET Spring is just around the corner. The First Presbyterian Church of Branchville and the Daisey Roe Chain are planning our 27th Annual Indoor / Outdoor Spring Flea Market including the Thrift Shop on Saturday May 18, 2024, from 9 am to 2 pm. Our group will be renting tables indoors / outdoors for \$20.00 each. Please stop by to shop and support our efforts. Contact Branchville Presbyterian Church 973-948-3495.



DEACONS' NEWS – We are always looking for help with providing a meal for a sick church member or for a person or family in need. If you would be willing to take part in this ministry of care and concern (on an occasional basis), please let Linda Osborne know. Thank You!

CHURCH WEEKLY CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND MINISTRIES

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
Today	10:00am	Worship – “Fifth Sunday of Lent”
Tuesday	7:00pm	Deacons Meeting
Wednesday	10am-12:00pm	Food Pantry Open
	12:00pm	Daisey Roe Luncheon/Meeting
Thursday	5 :30-6:45pm	Soup & Study – “Lenten Study”
	7:00pm	Chancel Choir

Next Sunday	10:00am	Sunday Worship “Palm/Passion Sunday” <i>Livestreamed via Facebook</i>

First Presbyterian Church PO Box 1, 3 Wantage Avenue, Branchville, NJ 07826

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2024 Holy Week Schedule



Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24th

10:00am Worship Service

Maundy Thursday, March 28th

7:00pm Worship Service

Good Friday, March 29th

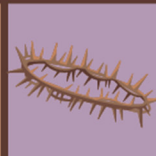
7:00pm Worship Service

Easter Sunday, March 31st

10:00am Worship Service



HOLY WEEK



For the Beauty of the Earth

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DIX 7.7.7.7.7

Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864

Conrad Kocher, 1838
Abr. William Henry Monk, 1861
Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

1. For the beau-ty of the earth, For the glo-ry of the skies,
2. For the won-der of each hour Of the day and of the night,
3. For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de-light,
4. For the joy of hu-man love, Broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,

For the love which from our birth O-ver and a-round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,
For the mys-tic har-mo-ny Link-ing sense to sound and sight,
Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, For all gen-tle thoughts and mild,

Refrain

Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate-ful praise.

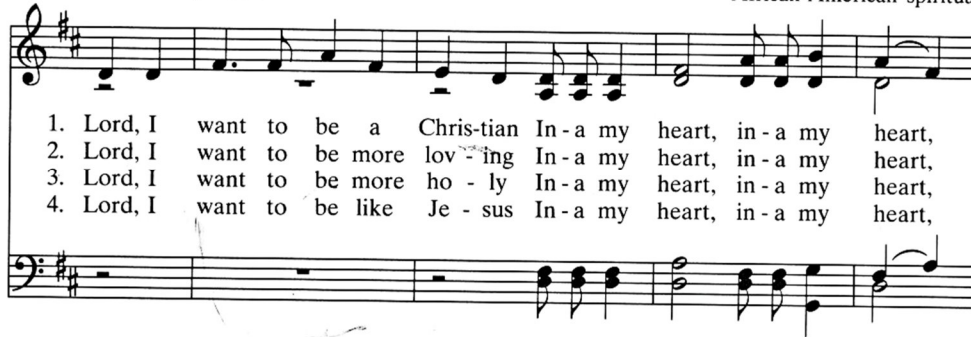
Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

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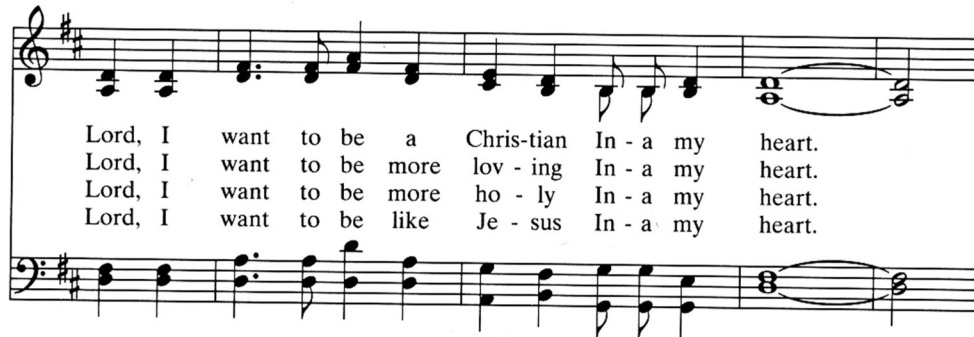
I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN Irregular

African-American spiritual

African-American spiritual



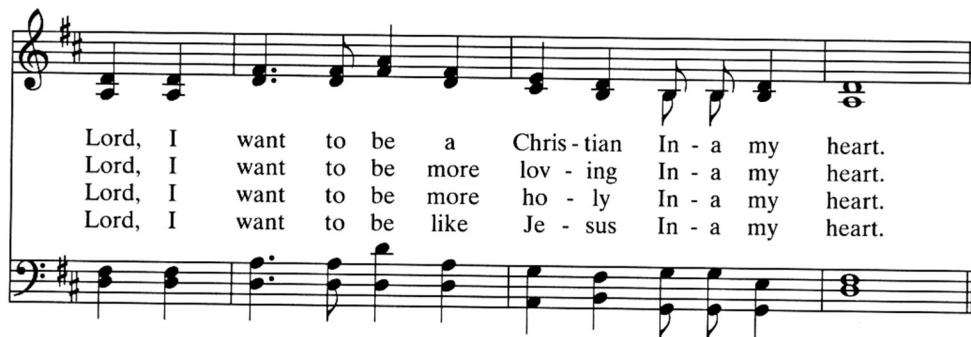
1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
 2. Lord, I want to be more lov-ing In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
 3. Lord, I want to be more ho-ly In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
 4. Lord, I want to be like Je-sus In-a my heart, in-a my heart,



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In-a my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov-ing In-a my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho-ly In-a my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je-sus In-a my heart.



In-a my heart, In-a my heart, In-a my heart,



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In-a my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov-ing In-a my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho-ly In-a my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je-sus In-a my heart.

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee 357

Washington Gladden, 1879

MARYTON LM

Henry Percy Smith, 1874

1. O Mas - ter, let me walk with Thee In low - ly
 2. Help me the slow of heart to move By some clear,
 3. Teach me Thy pa - tience; still with Thee In clos - er,
 4. In hope that sends a shin - ing ray Far down the

paths of ser - vice free; Tell me Thy se - cret;
 win - ning word of love; Teach me the way - ward
 dear - er com - pa - ny, In work that keeps faith
 fu - ture's broad - ening way; In peace that on - ly

help me bear The strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, And guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, In trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.
 Thou canst give, With Thee, O Mas - ter, let me live.