

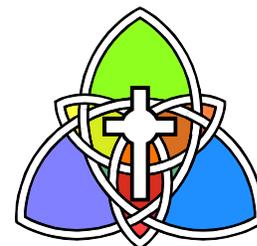


First Presbyterian Church

meets at

292 West Main Street · Newark, DE 19711

302-731-5644 · firstpresnewark.org



Worship Grow Serve

April 11, 2021

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."
And with that he breathed on them and said,
"Receive the Holy Spirit."

John 20:21-22

Holy Spirit

A nurturing community in Jesus Christ reflecting God's love for the world

as we Worship, Grow and Serve.

WELCOME

* **PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP** *“Sanctuary”*
(this is a prayer we will sing to prepare our hearts for worship)

Thompson/Scruggs

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for You .

(repeat)

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive)

Psalm 133

One: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

All: It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

One: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

All: For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of Easter, in the risen Christ you broke the power of sin and evil. And yet we still live in the tombs of forgetfulness, anxiety and fear. Like the disciples in the upper room we have closed our doors, and not carried your message of Good News out to the world. We have failed to love You as we should. We have neglected to love our neighbor. Indeed, we have even failed to love ourselves. Release us from the tombs that terrify us, so that we can see your image in one another and in your good creation. Indeed, free us from the graves of self-hatred, so that we can see ourselves as your children. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* **SONG**

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

Kendrick

Lord, the light of Your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth You now bring us,
shine on me, shine on me.

(chorus) Shine Jesus shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light.

(cont. on next page)

Lord I come to Your awesome presence,
from the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me. shine on me.

(chorus)

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness,
so our faces display Your likeness;
Ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine, on me.

(chorus)

PRAYER OF PREPARATION (unison)

Lord prepare us to be a sanctuary to receive your words - holy tried and true - and with thanks giving help us to center our minds on you.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 4:32-35; John 20:19-31

Acts 4:32-35 Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 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.

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.

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (unison)

from A Brief Statement of Faith

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

* **SONG**

"Evidence"

Baldwin

All throughout my history,
Your faithfulness has walked beside me.
The winter storms made way for spring,
In every season, from where I'm standing.

(chorus) I see the evidence of Your goodness,
All over my life, all over my life.
I see Your promises in fulfillment,
All over my life, all over my life.

Help me remember when I'm weak,
Fear may come, but fear will leave.
You lead my heart to victory,
You are my strength and You always will be.

(chorus)

See the cross, the empty grave,
The evidence is endless,
All my sin rolled away,
Because of You, oh, Jesus.

See the cross, the empty grave,
The evidence is endless,
All my sin rolled away,
Because of You, oh, Jesus, oh.

(chorus 2 times)

So why should I fear?
The evidence is here.
Why should I fear?
Oh, the evidence is here.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

*Please use the prayer cards in the pews for your prayer concerns and joys and place in offering plate when you leave today. Let us pray for the church, our neighbors in need and the whole world, saying: **Hear our prayer.***

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND 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.
Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

* HYMN 331

"God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand"

NATIONAL HYMN

God of the ages, whose almighty hand
leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past.
In this free land by thee our lot is cast.
Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay:
thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
be thy strong arm our ever sure defense.
Thy true religion in our hearts increase.
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way.
Lead us from night to never-ending day.
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* SONG OF SENDING

"Shout To The Lord"

Zschech

(verse) My Jesus, my Saviour, Lord, there is none like You;
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter, Tower of refuge and strength;
Let every breath, all that I am, Never cease to worship You;

(chorus) Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing.
Power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name.

(cont. on next page)

I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
forever I'll love You, Forever I'll stand,
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

(repeat verse)
(repeat chorus)

(ending) Nothing compares to the promise I have in You. *(repeat)*

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<https://firstpresnewark.org/giving-at-fpc-n/>

Video services will be uploaded to our You-Tube channel once service has ended and video processing is completed.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMgrt0yHvgOjUPphSOFgxxA>.

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INTERIM PASTOR: Rev. Eric Markman
Email: ericmarkman@firstpresnewark.org; Phone: 603-770-3239

OFFICE MANAGER: Cindy Rogers
Email: cindyrogers@firstpresnewark.org

MUSIC LEADERS: Dave Baker, Karen Baker, Larry Benson, Alex Bock, Melody Bock, Griff Campbell, Jim Pierson-Perry, Mark Sisk

VIDEO/MEDIA TEAM: Matthew Bowen, Dave Evers, Ted Koser, Ron Olson, Jim Pierson-Perry, Jeff Rogers

WEBSITE: www.firstpresnewark.org

PHONE: 302-731-5644

EMAIL: fpchurch@firstpresnewark.org

PRAYER EMAIL: prayers@firstpresnewark.org

ONLINE GIVING: <https://firstpresnewark.org/giving-at-fpc-n/> (copy link to your web browser)

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OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.—3:00 p.m.