



February 16, 2025

10:00 AM

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FREEHOLD

118 WEST MAIN STREET
FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Rev. Dr. Alan Olson, Pastor

Pastor's Office Hours: Mon-Thur. 9:30am-12pm

Director of Music: John Cavicchio

Church Office Hours: Mon-Fri. 9am-12pm

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*Please stand if you are able

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude *Verset, Boellmann*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (*Psalm 1*)

Leader: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers, but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.

People: **They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.**

Leader: The wicked are not so but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

People: **Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous, for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

***Hymn #409 God Is Here!**

Call to Confession *(Spoken by worship leader)*

“Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and turn them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Please take a moment for silent confession.)

Assurance of Pardon

The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Gloria Patri** *(Hymn #581)*

*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**

A Time for Children *(Children are invited to the front pew for a message from the pastor)*

Anthem *Blessed Be Your Name*

Prayer for Illumination *(unison)*

God of all history, thank you for the Bible. Through your Word we learn that you love your people dearly, and we learn that we are your people. Thank you that your Word shapes our identity. Thank you that your Word gives us hope for the future. As your Word is read and preached, send your Spirit so that we can know our role in your ongoing work in our world. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10 *(Old Testament pg. 719)*

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:17-26 *(New Testament pg. 64)*

Sermon *Blessed* Pastor Alan Olson

***Hymn #223 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**

Responding to the Word

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed *(unison)*

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,*

*was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Offering *Surely the Presence of the Lord*

***Doxology (Hymn #606)**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)**

*We give our thanks through our talents, our time, and our treasure.
Thanks be to God; whose love creates us!
Thanks be to God; whose mercy redeems us!
Thanks be to God; whose grace leads us into the future! Amen.*

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (Hymnal pg. 35)

*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 #815 *Give to the Winds Thy Fears

Benediction

Postlude *Great is the Lord*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist Training: Pastor Alan will be conducting a training workshop for current liturgists and for those who are interested in becoming liturgists. The first session will be held today in the sanctuary following worship. The second session will be held in the sanctuary next Sunday, February 23rd after worship. Please attend one of these sessions if you are a liturgist or if you would like to become a liturgist. If you have any questions regarding the workshop, please speak with Pastor Alan.

The church office will be closed Monday, February 17th for Presidents' Day.

DEACONS' FUND



The Deacons have a responsibility to aid the sick and home bound members of our church community. This includes hospital and nursing home visits, home visits, and transportation for doctor appointments and food shopping.

Please consider a donation to this very important ministry. Donations may be made during the offering at Sunday worship or mailed to the church office. Please indicate that your donation is for the Deacons' Fund. Thank you for your generosity and continued support.

FPC Financial Giving Report: 7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025

January 2025 Giving	\$13,957
Year to Date Giving	\$102,642
Projected Annual Giving	\$147,506

LITURGIST	Yvonne Lindner
USHERS	Charlotte & Chelsea Heinsohn
Next Week	Charlie Lloyd & Tom Morrice
OPENER	Chris Pilla
Next Week	Pat Kirk
CLOSER	Chris Pilla
Next Week	Charlie Lloyd
COUNTERS	Rick Baptista & Kevin Truex
Next Week	Barbara Lloyd & Tom Morrice

