



March 26, 2023
Fifth Sunday in Lent

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FREEHOLD

118 WEST MAIN STREET

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Reverend Alan Olson

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

Director of Music: John Cavicchio 732-462-0374

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

Contact: 732-462-0234

Email: fpcsecretary2@gmail.com

Web Page: <http://www.fpcfreeshold.org>

*Please stand if you are able

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude *Finlandia*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Let us worship God, who has done great things.

People: We rejoice in our God, who made a way through the desert of this world.

Leader: Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

People: We are the people God has formed through Christ; we worship him, and we rejoice!

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

People: We praise God for the grace that has saved us. Alleluia! We rejoice!

*Hymn #663 *Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun*

Call to Confession *(Spoken by worship leader)*

The very stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. Come now to Christ, that living stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious. Whoever believes in him will not be put to shame. Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

O Lord, you desire truth in our inward being; teach us wisdom in our secret heart. Send out your light, send out your truth, and let them lead us to our home. Take from us the weight of our sin, that room might be made for the spirit of truth. If we prepare a dwelling place, that spirit will abide within us, and the truth will set our spirits free. Then shall we love not only in word or in speech; then shall we love in deed and in truth, and by this know that our service is faithful. O Lord, you desire truth in our inward being; teach us wisdom in our secret heart. Amen.

(Please take a moment for silent confession.)

Assurance of Pardon

Those who love me, I will deliver, says the Lord; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them and show them my salvation. Receive the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

***Passing of the Peace**

Anthem *Just a Closer Walk*

Prayer for Illumination *(unison)*

O Christ, by remaining faithful till death, you show us the road to greater love. O Christ, by taking the burden of sin upon yourself, you reveal to us the way of generosity. O Christ, by praying for those who crucified you, you lead us to forgive without counting the cost. O Christ, by opening paradise to the repentant thief, you awaken hope in us. O Christ, come and help our weak faith. O Christ, create a pure heart in us; renew and strengthen our spirit. O Christ, your Word is near; may it live within us and protect us always. Amen.

Scripture Reading: **John 11:1-45** *(New Testament pg. 104)*

Sermon “The Do-Over” *Pastor Alan Olson*

***Hymn #834 Precious Lord, Take My Hand**

Offering *Ensemble*

***Doxology**

*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

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

**Hymn #826 Lift High the Cross*

Benediction

Postlude *St. George's Windsor*



Special Guests:
Justin Morgan – Freehold Youth Ensemble

Announcements

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, transportation for doctor appointments and food shopping, and special Thanksgiving and Valentine baskets. Please consider a donation to this very important ministry. Your gift will be set aside for this purpose. Contribution envelopes can be found in the pews. Thank you so very much.

Soup & Worship Services will be held Wednesday evenings through March 29th at 6:00 PM in Room A/B. Please join us in sharing faith and fellowship during the Lenten Season.

Palm Sunday is April 2nd. There will be a special collection for **One Great Hour of Sharing**, which will be shared equally by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Relief, and Self-Development of People. Special envelopes will be given out on Palm Sunday for this collection. If donating by check, please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church of Freehold and indicate One Great Hour of Sharing on the memo line.

We will also be holding a **Baptismal Reunion** of everyone baptized in this church. A time of fellowship and coffee hour will follow the Palm Sunday Worship Service.

Easter Flowers: Easter Sunday is April 9th and it would be wonderful to decorate the Sanctuary with spring flowers. To do this, we need your help. Please consider bringing in any kind of potted flower, 8 inches to 10 inches in height. The pots should have colorful foil wrappers around them to help prevent water spills and for decorative purposes. They can be dropped off at the church on Saturday, April 8th between 10:00 AM and 12:00 noon. A name tag will be placed under each pot as you will need to take your flowers home after the Easter Worship Service. Marie Schlechtweg is coordinating. Thank you. Your help is so very much appreciated!

Hymn Sing: On Sunday, April 16th, we're going to have a hymn sing, and we're taking requests! Please email your hymn requests to the church office, fpcsecretary2@gmail.com by April 12th. John Cavicchio is off that Sunday, so the substitute organist needs to know all of the hymns in advance. Thank you so much!

Deacons: Judi Cavicchio, Lenora Chu, Robin Fox, Peggy Guttormsen, Carol Morris, Jean Pennett, Marie Schlechtweg, Michele Williams

| SESSION | |
|-------------------|---|
| Bill Canning | Finance Commission (Co-chair, Rick Baptista) |
| Tammy Ciok | Personnel Commission, Nominating Commission |
| Berwin Guttormsen | Clerk of Session |
| Julie Heinsohn | Personnel Commission |
| Carol Matino | Worship Commission |
| Larry Moran | Property Commission |
| Linda Schmidt | Christian Education |
| Chuck Stapp | Property Commission |
| Sandra Whitehill | Mission/Outreach Commission |

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|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| LAY LEADER | Sue Craig |
| USHERS | Barbara & Charlie Lloyd |
| Next Week | Mike Mancuso & Bob DiSogra |
| OPENER | Pat Kirk |
| Next Week | Pat Kirk |
| CLOSER | Charlie Lloyd |
| Next Week | Samantha Daesener |
| COUNTERS | Barbara Lloyd & Rick Baptista |

