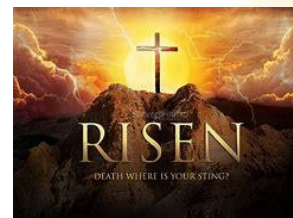
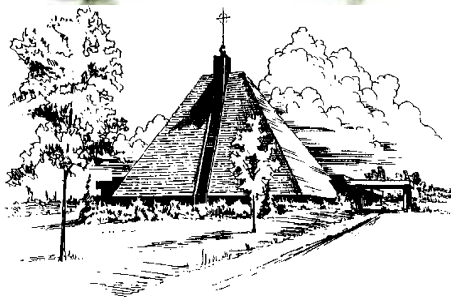


# COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CINNAMINSON, NEW JERSEY



3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:00 AM

APRIL 14, 2024

**PRELUDE**

"Heavenly Sunlight"

Mark Hayes

**GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER**

Bonnie Cain

**CHORAL INTROIT**

"Christ is Risen"

Lloyd Larson

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

When fear and doubts stroll through our doors:

**God stands beside us, whispering of peace.**

When we toss and turn late at night:

**God sits by our beds, singing lullabies of love.**

When we stumble through the shadows of sin:

**God illuminates the paths of goodness and joy.**

With prayer and praise, in scripture and in song, let us worship the Living God!

**HYMN**

"Now the Green Blade Rises"

(page 9)

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of empty tombs: Peter speaks with power and clarity of his faith, while we remain silent. The psalmist speaks of trusting in you, while our doubts overwhelm us.**

**Jesus is read to come and grace us with peace, but our fears keep our hearts shuttered and locked. God of full hearts: your love can change us from scared people to children of grace. You can weed doubts from our hearts and plant seeds of joy in their place.**

**You can silence the panic of our souls with the peace Jesus offers to each of us. Transform us into Easter people, through the power of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Savior.**

### **SILENT MEDITATION**

**LORD HAVE MERCY (3x)**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**We are God's children - those whose lives have been changed by the One who loves us and forgives us. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**WE ARE FORGIVEN (1x)**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

**And also with you.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**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.  
Amen.**

**ACTS 3:12-19**

Peter addressed the people, "Fellow Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him.

But you rejected the holy and righteous one and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

"And now, brothers and sisters, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent, therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God!**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

"An Irish Blessing"

Lightfoot

**PSALM 4**

Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

**How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame? How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?**

But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him.

**When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent.**

Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord.

**There are many who say, "O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!"**

You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.

**I will both lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.**

May God bless this, the reading and hearing of God's Holy Word.

**LUKE 24: 36b-48**

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ!**

**SERMON**

"You Are Witnesses"

Rev. Dr. Higgs

**PRAYER AND REFLECTION**

We pause to reflect on the message

If you wish, you may want to use the following breath prayer (or any of your choice). The words may be said aloud or in silence  
Breathe in: "Eternal Light,"  
Breathe out: "... guide me in your way."

**HYMN**

"Christ is Risen Shout Hosanna"

(See page 12)

**LITANY: EVERYDAY IS EASTER**

When Thomas touched the wounds and set himself free

**it was Easter day**

When Peter's three "yes's" to Jesus finished his three denials

**it was Easter day**

When Mary ready to embalm the dead ran in fear from the empty tomb

**it was Easter day**

When the disciples looked from afar at a breakfast of fish on the beach

**it was Easter day**

When Emmaus became synonymous with welcome and the breaking of bread with strangers

**it was Easter day**

When Paul was blinded by the light and recognized the voice buzzing in his head

**it was Easter day**

When the hungry are fed at the table the same table as the rich

**it is Easter day**

When weapons are beaten to plowshares and peace is a word to be shouted

**it is Easter day**

When the stranger is welcomed in community and the lonely are restored to relationship

**it is Easter day.**

~ written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on Mucky Paws.

**SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

That churches of all traditions.....O God,

**hear our prayer.**

That the earth may be freed from war, famine, and disease.....O God,

**hear our prayer.**

That those who govern and maintain peace in every land, .....O God,

**hear our prayer.**

That you will strengthen this nation to pursue .....O God,

**hear our prayer.**

That you will preserve all who live.....O God,

**hear our prayer.**

That you will comfort and empower.....O God,

**hear our prayer.**

That you will accept our thanksgiving.....O God,

**hear our prayer.**

Together, let us pray:

**Merciful God, as a potter fashions a vessel from humble clay, you form us into a new creation. Shape us, day by day, through the cross of Christ your Son, until we pray as continually as we breathe and all our acts are prayer; through Jesus Christ and in the mystery of the Holy Spirit, we pray.**

**Amen.**

## **CALL TO STEWARDSHIP**

### **OFFERTORY**

"Now God Be Praised in Heaven Above"

Vulpius

### **DOXOLOGY**

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings"

#809

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

### **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.**

### **HYMN**

"Go My Children with My Blessing"

(See page 10)

**CHARGE AND BEDICTION** Go out into the world.....be with us all. Amen.

**O Lord, may you this week open up doors for us to share your love!**

### **CHORAL RESPONSE**

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

### **POSTLUDE**

"Awesome God"

J. Ray

**MINISTERS:** Mandy Rosica and Steve Salmon (Ushers), Sandra Pascone (Flower Delivery), Cynthia Joffe (Refreshments)

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** presented to the Glory of God by B. Ann and Dave DuBois as they celebrate their 67<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April 20.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **1. SOUP SALE!**

The next soup sale will be Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. If you are willing to make some soup for our next sale, please contact Mary Lou at 609-417-5639. Thank you!

### **2. BLOOD DRIVE**

Covenant will be hosting a Blood Drive on Friday May 17 from 12PM-5PM in Fellowship Hall.

### **3. BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR BOB**

Online Bible study is on Wednesdays at 7PM. A link will be emailed to you.

**4. SUNDAY SCHOOL DATES:** Calling all children ages 4 and above! Join us for Sunday school on the following dates! April 21<sup>st</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **5. DAILY PRAYER**

Covenant is now offering Daily Prayer videos narrated by our new Pastor, Bob! This is a wonderful way to begin each day in prayer. If you are not receiving them, please notify Bob, or Greg and you will be placed on the email list.

**6. YOUR PARTICIPATION IS NEEDED!** Members are invited to participate in our services. Please contact Bonnie Cain or Greg DiBona if you are interested in reading scripture or leading our worship services. We are also in need of more volunteers to operate the camera and soundboard. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

**7. BIBLE STUDY** The Bible Study will be located in the lounge on Mondays at 11AM. All are welcome!

**8. STEWARDSHIP:** Total Income for 4/7: \$2136.00, Envelope Giving: \$1855.00, Deacons Fund: \$220.00.

### **9. PIANO DUET CONCERT**

Join Music Directors Diana Dohrmann and Greg DiBona for a concert of piano duets on Sunday, May 19 at 3PM at Calvary Presbyterian Church.

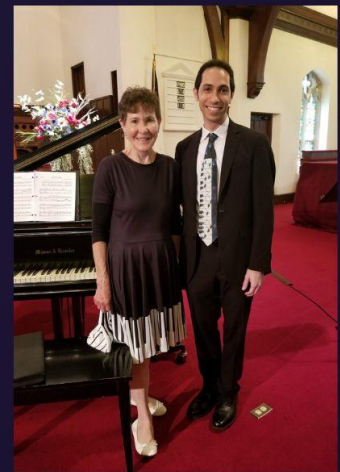
JOIN MUSIC DIRECTORS  
DIANA DOHRMANN AND  
GREG DIBONA FOR A



# PIANO DUET CONCERT



MAY 19 2024, 3PM



A DONATION BASED BENEFIT  
CONCERT



Calvary Presbyterian Church  
300 Fourth Street  
Riverton, NJ 08077

# PRAYER LIST



Thankful prayers for Pastor Bob's very thoughtful sermon and for the music provided by our choir (smaller in number today but powerful and very good) and for the lovely organ music by Greg before and at the conclusion of worship. Cynthia provided delicious goodies - thank you!

Keep the prayers coming for peace and quiet in the world and an end to violence in our cities and communities. Peace is desperately needed!

Please keep our Covenant families and friends in your prayers:

Julia - healing following her hip replacement a few weeks ago - and an opportunity to receive comfort and a time for rest as she and her family move on without her mom.

Mary Lou Newborg - health concerns involving healing from a bout with Lyme disease and awaiting results from biopsy on her lung

Chris Todd - continued healing of his eye

Dale Neas - doing better and receiving physical therapy as he hopes to gain strength

Bruce - strength and hope as he deals with the after effects of chemo this past Friday

Denise Wood (former member) - concern for her grown son, Tommy, who has AFib and is scheduled for ablation in a few weeks

Ron Green's wife, Barbara - good care and recovery

Janette's sister, Joan - in hospice - very good care and rest

Linda Ballenger's cousin, Sally - good progress in cancer treatment

Karen Schwartz's friend, Bill - dealing with cancer and receiving good care

Betty Herskovitz's friend's sister, Sr. Bernadette Carlin - that surgery was successful

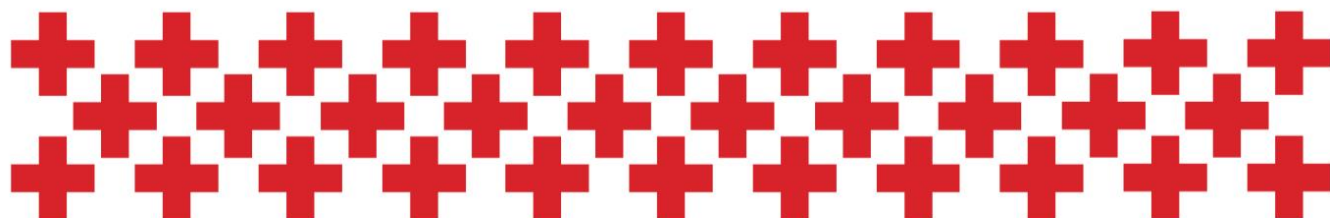
Jeanne Martin's Uncle Phil Cowan - elderly gentleman in the hospital for brain bleeding

Mary Lou's friends - continued care for Bobbie Paul, Arlene, Logan, Dave, and Michelle



# American Red Cross

*Give blood.* Help save lives.



## **Blood Drive** **Covenant Presbyterian Church**

Main Hall  
2618 New Albany Road  
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

**Friday, May 17, 2024**  
**12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: Covenant Presbyterian Church to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.  
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.  
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.



Scan to be directed to  
RapidPass®



Scan to schedule  
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

©2017 The American National Red Cross

# 247 Now the Green Blade Rises

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain;

love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Although there were some traditional Easter carols, this hybrid one has been created by grafting a 20th-century English text onto a late 15th-century French tune. The allegory of the dying and rising grain as a parallel for Christ's Resurrection is probably based on John 12:24.

# Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! 248

1 Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!  
 2 Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.  
 3 Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.

Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.  
 Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.  
 Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.

In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.  
 Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend.  
 Tell its grim, de - mon - ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"

Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.  
 Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.  
 God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na ev - ery - one!

In commenting on this late 20th-century text, the author has stressed his intention to affirm the social implications of an Easter faith: "Christian peace and justice action finds its wellspring, not in moral zeal or guilty conscience, but in the resurrection."

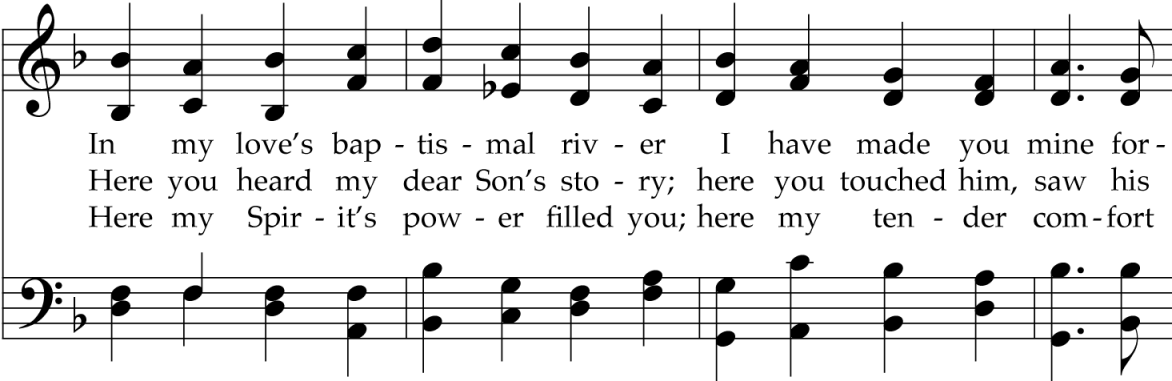
## Go, My Children, with My Blessing 547



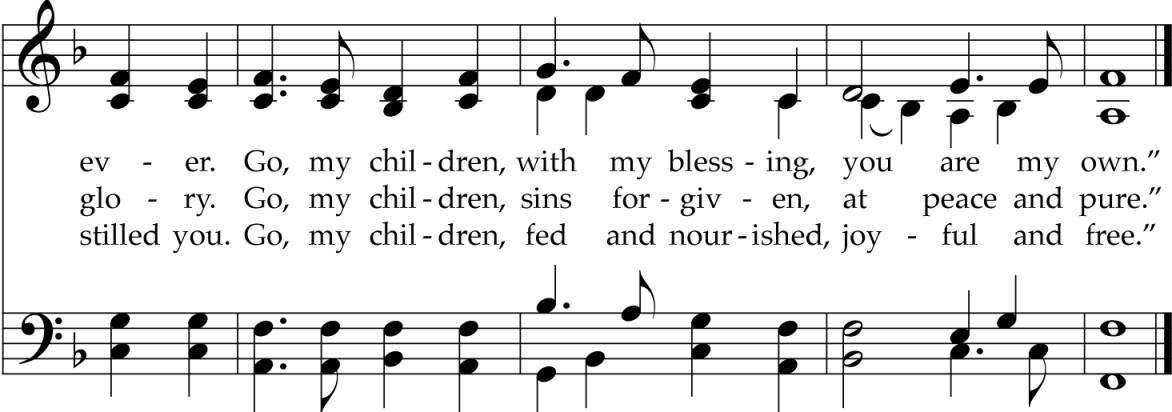
1 "Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev-er a-lone.  
 2 "Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.  
 3 "Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me.



Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
 Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for-  
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry; here you touched him, saw his  
 Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you; here my ten-der com-fort



ev-er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."  
 glo-ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure."  
 stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free."

Because this Welsh melody usually sets evening texts, the author was asked to create one for use in daytime. His recasting of the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:22-27 imagines that passage as a benediction that might be spoken by God at the conclusion of a worship service.