COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



CINNAMINSON, NEW JERSEY





FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

10:00 AM

MARCH 26, 2023

PRELUDE Beneath the Cross of Jesus

F. D. Maker

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leslie Todd

CHORAL INTROIT

For God So Loved the World

Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 95

Leader: O come, let us sing to the LORD;

People: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Leader: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

People: Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

Leader: O come, let us worship and bow down,

People: Let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

Leader: For he is our God,

People: And we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

HYMN Come, Let Us Praise the Lord

#320

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Unison)

Searcher of hearts, you know us better than we know ourselves. You see the sins which our very sinfulness hides from our eyes. But our conscience does accuse us of failing; failing to watch against sin; failing to walk lovingly in one another's company; failing to offer ourselves completely to do your will. Look upon our sorrow, lift us up from where we have fallen in our weakness. Let the dayspring still arise in our hearts bringing forgiveness, healing and strength.

(Continue in silent prayer for personal confession)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(Romans 8:31-34)

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

#805

SCRIPTURE Luke 4:1-2, 5-8, 11

Rev. Kraft

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours."

Jesus answered, "It is written: "Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

CHORAL ANTHEM

Truly This Was God's Son

Larson

SCRIPTURE Matthew 16:13-26 Rev. Kraft

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

SERMON "The Satanic Alternative"

Rev. Kraft



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.

HYMN Give Me Jesus #551

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION Now May the God of Peace Larson

POSTLUDE O Sacred Head, Now Wounded Hassler

MINISTERS: Linda Ballenger and Treva Grunigen (Ushers), Donna Scioli (Refreshments), Janette Hutchinson (Flower Delivery)

<u>THE CHANCEL FLOWERS</u> presented to the Glory of God by Greg DiBona in loving memory of his grandmother, Angela Testa.

WE THANK Rev. James Kraft for leading us in worship.

MONTHLY MEETINGS AND SCHEDULES

Women's Bible Study - Mondays, 11:00 AM, Lounge

Choir Rehearsal - Sundays, 11:00 AM **Bell Rehearsal** - Mondays, 7:00 PM

Christian Education (Bonnie Cain and Amanda Rosica) - as needed

Deacons - 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Fellowship (Amanda Rosica) - 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 PM

Finance and Stewardship (Mike Martin) - 2nd Monday, 7:00 PM

Men's Breakfast -Tuesdays, 7:00 AM

Membership (Nancy Perritt) - as needed

Mission (Dave Sutton) - as needed

Music and Worship (Leslie Todd) - Sunday, April 16, after worship

Property Care (Chuck Rosica and Bob Jeffries) - determined by chairperson

Session - 4th Thursday, 7:30 PM





<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u>

1. GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Covenant will have a Good Friday service on April 7 at 3:00 PM. Elder Betty Herskovitz will be assisting Rev. Leopold, who will lead us in worship.

2. SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation to be held on Sunday, March 26, 2023, in the Sanctuary, following morning worship services. The purposes of this meeting are to elect church officers (Elders and Deacons), and congregational members of the 2023-2024 Church Officer Nominating Committee.

3. PIANO BENEFIT CONCERT

Join Music Directors Greg DiBona and Diana Dohrmann for a piano concert! Piano duets and solos will be presented from composers, John Williams, Scott Joplin, Leonard Bernstein, Claude Debussy and many more. The concert will be on Sunday, April 30 at 3PM located at Calvary Presbyterian Church. All proceeds will assist Music Departments at both Covenant and Calvary.

4. LUNCH WITH THE BUNNY

Lunch with the Bunny will be on Saturday April 1st at 11:30 AM. Hot Lunch, egg hunt, crafts, and take your own photos with the Easter Bunny will all take place on this fun filled afternoon! Admission is \$6, kids under 2 are free. If you would like to donate candy for the Easter egg hunt, please leave donations in the church office. Thank you!

5. EASTER LILY FORM

You can purchase an Easter Lily to honor a loved one! Please find the form in your bulletin and return it to the church office with your payment. All names will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

- **6. UPDATES!** Covenant is making some exciting updates! We are now able to accept credit card payments for our events (such as tickets for the tea or Breakfast with Santa!). Covenant will need to download the Square app onto a host piece of hardware, such as an iPhone or iPad. The Square Reader can work with any iPhone 7 or more recent phones or with iPad if operating systems have been updated. If you have an iPhone or iPad (7 or newer) that you would to donate to the church to help us support this update, we would be most grateful. Please contact Mandy Rosica or Chris Todd.
- **7. WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** Bible study is located in the Lounge on Mondays at 11 AM. The group will be studying the book of Luke. We hope to see you there!
- **8. 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.
- **9. STEWARDSHIP:** Total income for 3/19: \$1162.00, Envelope Giving: \$887.00, Deacons Fund: \$160.00.



LUNCH WITH THE BUNNY

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

TIME: 11:30 AM

ADMISSION: \$6, CHILDREN UNDER 2: FREE!

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2618 NEW ALBANY ROAD





Gregory DiBona and Diana Dohrmann
Four Hands Piano
Benefit Concert:

Sunday, April 30, 2023

Music of Mozart, Bernstein, Debussy, Joplin, and John Williams. 3:00 PM

All proceeds will assist in funding Covenant and Calvary's Music Department.



300 Fourth Street
Riverton, NJ 08077

I wish to purchase Easter Lily (s) at \$12.50 each. The Easter morning bulletin will include a listing of names of donors (if desired) and mention the names of those in whose memory or honor the lily (s) are presented. For example: The Easter Lilies in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God by: Mrs. J. Smith in memory of her parents, Mr. & Mrs. J. Doe Mr. & Mrs. J. Smith in honor of their children Mr. & Mrs. J. Smith in gratitude for loved ones The Smith Family Name
In Memory/Honor/Gratitude
Enclosed please find my check for the sum of \$
Signed Phone
LILIES MAY BE PICKED UP AFTER THE EASTER MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE, APRIL 9, 2023
I wish to purchase Easter Lily (s) at \$12.50 each.
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For example: The Easter Lilies in the Sanctuary are presented to the glory of God by:
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Name
In Memory/Honor/Gratitude
Enclosed please find my check for the sum of \$
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PRAYER LIST

Thankful and appreciative prayers for Rev. Zeidler's thoughtful sermon last week and for his cheerful manner. Prayers of gratitude to Betty Herskovitz for assisting in the service and to Nancy Perritt for providing the delicious goodies.

Prayers for peace in our communities, country and world. Keep caregivers close to your heart as they tend to the sick. We continue to pray for the people of Ukraine.





Please pray for our Covenant families and friends:

Barbara Van Tassel - healing well from knee replacement

Carol Grunigen - good diagnosis and treatment for heart related concerns

Betty Graham - settling in to her new home and relaxing

Terri Bell - able to rest comfortably and strength from Ken as he takes cares of her

Dawn Mozzi - improving following cancer treatment

Joan's friend, Mary - strength as she is treated for cancer

Mary Lou's friends, Dave, Christopher and Sherry - all dealing with difference areas of cancer -

prayers that they can be helped

Pastor Kiner - very good care and strength for his wife

Duane - Linda Ballenger's friend - dealing with many health issues

Karen Schwartz' neighbor's grandson, Colin - 11-year-old - difficult health concerns

Emily Minieri - prayers that she is being helped to lift her spirits

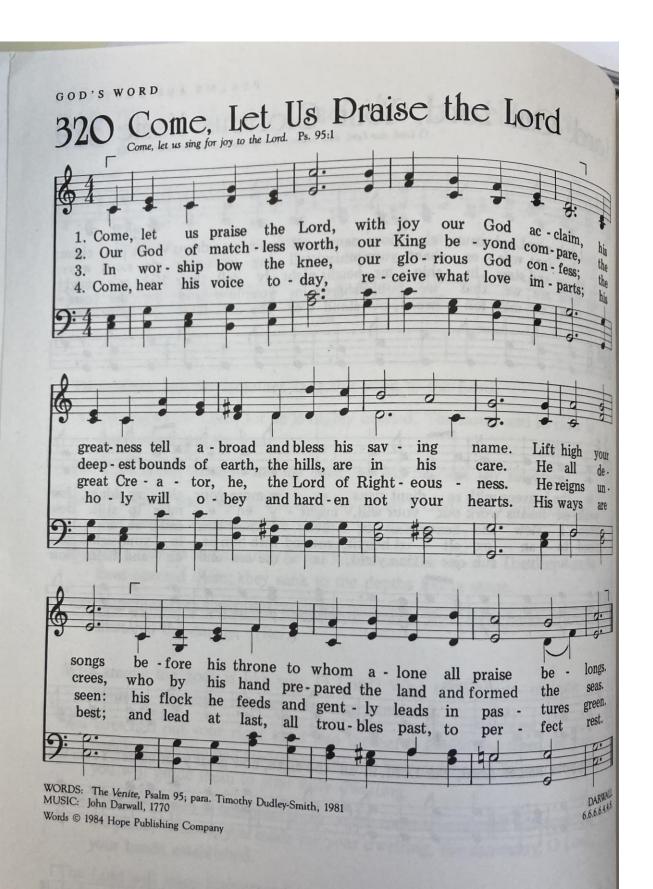
Etna Kessler - excellent care at memory care facility

Emily Busby - quality care at nursing care facility

Peggie Massey - feeling well and being active at her Texas home

Marilyn and her son, Eugene, Davidoff - very good care and peace of mind for Marilyn and good care for Eugene who is in a nursing facility



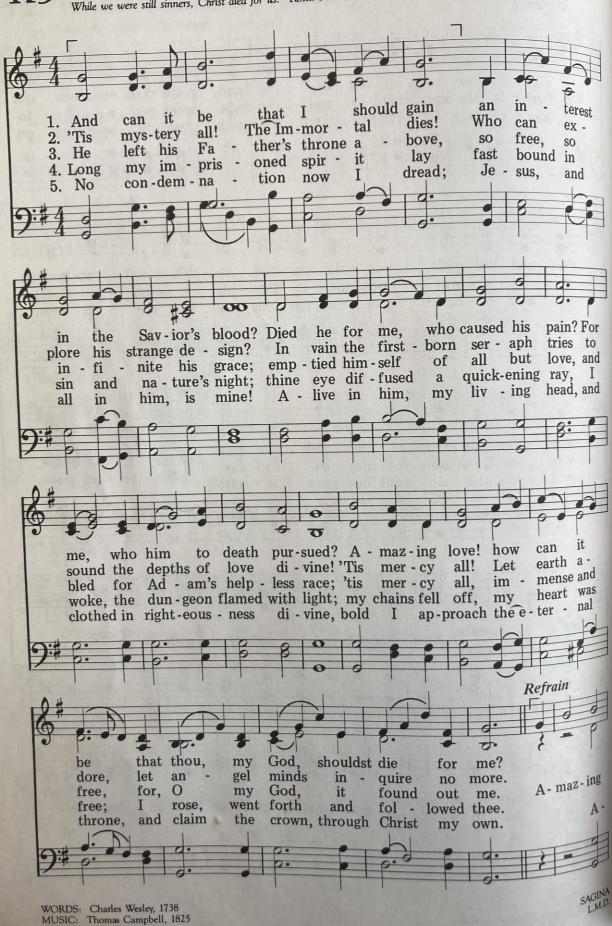


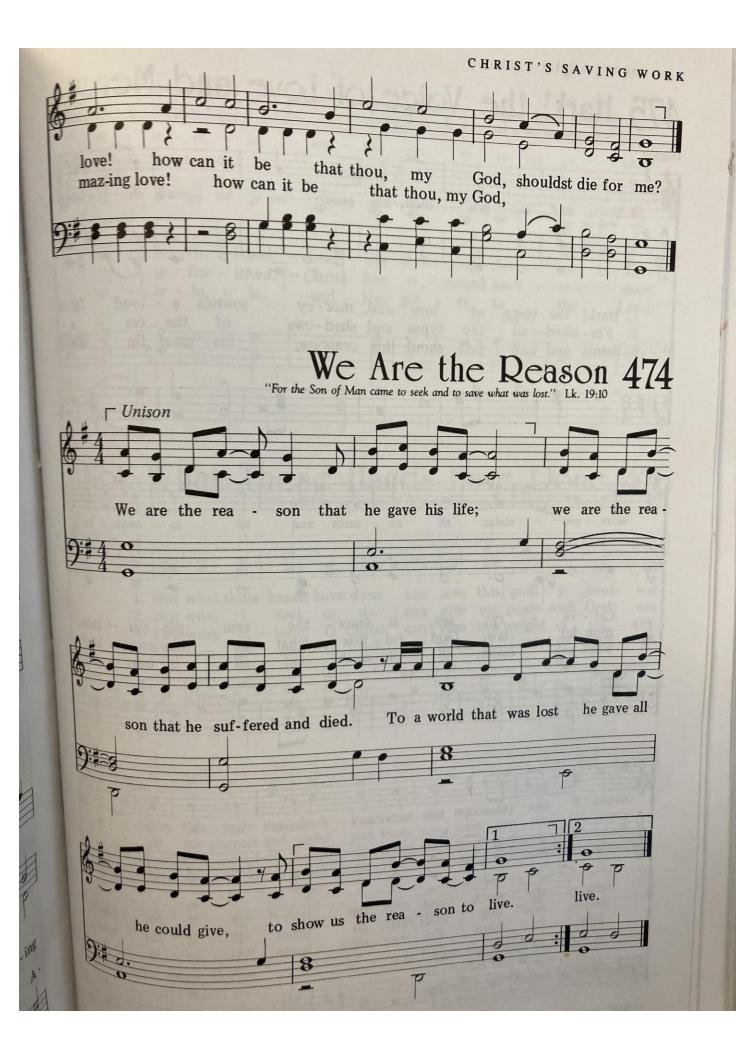
321 A Responsive Song of Praise

Glory to you, Lord God of an

REDEMPTION IN CHRIST

And Can It Be That I Should Gain? While we were still simners, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8





The Sufficiency of God 550

God, of your goodness give me yourself; for you are sufficient for me.

I cannot properly ask anything less, to be worthy of you.

If I were to ask less,

I should always be in want.

In you alone do I have all.

Amen.

Julian of Norwich, 15th century

