

****Below are the Bulletin and Announcements for Sunday, April 25, 2021.**

It includes the Zoom link to join during Worship Service.

Sunday WorshipTime: This link will open at 9:30 AM on Sunday. Worship will begin at 10 AM; we will leave it open for 30 minutes after worship ends for conversation.

To join by

Computer: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82004448057?pwd=UUh4aWV6ZUxhY3A4eDgzTWw5U0V2UT09>

To join by telephone: 1 (929) 205 6099

Meeting ID: 820 0444 8057

Passcode: 155613

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Wappinger Falls, New York
April 25, 2021 * Easter 4B * Earth Day**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

OPENING PRAYER *Psalm 23* (NAB)

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

In green pastures you let me graze; to safe waters you lead me; you restore my strength.

You guide me along the right path for the sake of your name.

Even when I walk through a dark valley, even unto death, I fear no harm, for you are at my side;

Your rod and staff give me courage.

You set a table before me as my enemies watch;

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Only goodness and love will pursue me all the days of my life;

I will dwell in the house of the Lord, for years to come. Amen.

HYMN GtG #473 For the Beauty of the Earth

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Spirit of God helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all hope and joy, we confess that we continue to live in fear.

We speak of your great love but our own hearts condemn us.

We express concern for the poor but our own actions betray us.

Forgive us, God of grace.

Good shepherd, restore our souls

and lead us in right paths for your name's sake; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news of God's promise: I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.

Everyone who calls on the name of God will be saved.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
I invite you to **share a sign of peace with members of your household
or send your prayers for peace to those not present with you.**

GLORIA PATRI

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word.
Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news
of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON 1 John 3:16-24

HYMN #288TUNE O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth
ELLACOMBE 8.6.8.6 D ("I Sing the Mighty Power of God"; "Hail To the Lord's Anointed")
Text: Copyright © 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.
O God, your creatures fill the earth with wonder and delight,
And every living thing has worth and beauty in your sight.
So playful dolphins dance and swim; Your sheep bow down and graze.
Your songbirds share a morning hymn To offer you their praise.

You made the pets we welcome in — They're wondrous blessings, too.
With paws and whiskers, wings and fins, They offer praise to you.
O Lord, you call us to embrace These creatures in our care.
May we show kindness, love and grace To all pets everywhere.

You made the creatures on each farm; You know the things they need.
May they grow healthy, safe from harm, And safe from human greed.
Just as a shepherd loves the sheep, You know their joy, their pain.
Lord, bless the animals we keep; May all farms be humane.

Your creatures live in every land; They fill the sky and sea.
O Lord, you give us your command To love them tenderly.
We're called to have dominion here — To care for them always.
By loving creatures you hold dear, We offer you our praise.

GOSPEL LESSON **John 10:11-18**
The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON *"Love as Truth & Action"*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING of GIFTS

1 John 3:16-17

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods yet refuses to help a sister or brother in need?

As we offer our gifts to you, Loving God, remove any doubts about how they might be used, as you offer food to the hungry, hope to the despairing, joy to the grieving, and peace to the broken.

Remembering God's great love for the world, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

DOXOLOGY (please sing these words)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

If you would like to share your joys and concerns with the congregation, please call or email the church office.

Canticle of Creation, St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

Most high, almighty, good Lord

to you belong praise and glory and honour and every blessing.

To you alone do they belong, O Most High

for no one is worthy to pronounce your name.

Praise to you, Lord, through all your creatures,

and especially through our noble Brother Sun,
through whom we have daylight and illumination

for he is beautiful and radiant and dazzling
and he reveals to us something of yourself.

Praise to you, Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars

which you have set in the heavens,

bright and precious and beautiful.

Praise to you, Lord, through Brother Wind

and air and clouds and stillness and every kind of weather

by which you uphold creation.

Praise to you, Lord, through Sister Water

who is very useful and humble and precious and pure.

Praise to you, Lord, through Brother Fire

through whom you light up the darkness

for he is beautiful and cheery and vigorous and mighty.

Praise to you, Lord, for Sister Earth, our mother

who feeds us and governs us

and produces all kinds of fruits and colourful flowers and herbs.

Praise to you, Lord, for all who forgive each other through your love,

and who endure illness and tribulation.

Blessed are they who endure it peaceably

for you will honour them, O Most High.

Praise to you, Lord, for our Sister Death

for no living being can escape from her.

*Wretched are they who die in mortal sin.
Blessed are they who are found doing your will
for the second death will not harm them.
Praise and bless my Lord and give thanks to him
and serve him with great humility.*

(Translated by Mary Low and taken from *Earth Gospel: A Guide to Prayer for God's Creation*, by Sam Hamilton-Poore, page 132.)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #80 You Shall Go Out with Joy (Trees of the Field)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

May the peace of Christ go with you to the places you go from here.
May the peace of Christ be in your conversations and in all your actions.
May the peace of Christ be there when you lie down to sleep and when you wake up.
Now go, and be the peace of Christ for all the earth. Alleluia! Amen!

POSTLUDE

Please call or email the church office with your prayer or pastoral care requests.

Please hold in your prayers:

- ~ for healing: Steve, Dorothy, Betsey, Vincent, Donna, Bob, John, Linda, Jonathan, Gina, Jane, Kathy, Jonathon & Megan
- ~ for Mom, Barbara and Lisa and discernment for upcoming project
- ~ for thanks and joy for more equitable education funding in NYS, thanks to a lot of advocacy and work with legislators!
- ~ for peaceful rest for: Fran, Terry, Damon
- ~ for all who are infected with and impacted by Covid-19 and their caregivers, Orpha & Joe; Christina & Mike
- ~ for thanksgiving to those who volunteer to make the world a cleaner, safer place for life
- ~ joy for seniors in our area now able to get appointments for the Covid-19 vaccine
- ~ for Brad and Steph having baby #2 – new due date is June 12th
- ~ for all the changes in the world and dealing with violence and injustice
- ~ for Doug who is doing well in cardiac re-hab
- ~ for those who feel hopeless with no idea where to turn for help
 - ~ for parents, students, educators and support staff as the year continues with a mix of struggles with education at home and in the school.
- ~ for all who confront evil and work for justice, peace and truth
- ~ for all of the prayers we have in our minds and in our hearts

Announcements

Sunday Worship on Zoom: To access Sunday worship on Zoom, click on this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82004448057?pwd=UUh4aWV6ZUxhY3A4eDgzTWw5U0V2UT09>

To call in by phone: (929) 205-6099

Meeting ID: 820 0444 8057

Passcode: 155613

If you need assistance accessing our virtual worship services, please contact the office.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

Spring Craft Fair on May 22nd:

- We plan to open the Thrift Shop during the Spring Craft Fair. We need to launder the clothing that has been sitting in there collecting dust for a year. Are you willing to take a rack or a tub home and return the clothes clean and ready for sale? Call the office to arrange a pick up time.
- Help make upcycled planters from items in the Thrift Shop (or your donated items from home.) Gather at the church on Sunday, May 16th at 1 PM to prepare the planters for sale on May 22nd.
- Make a batch of chili for sale at the Craft Fair. Let us know if you can make beef, turkey or vegetarian chili.
- We will need 2 10'x10' dining tents for use at the Spring Craft Fair – please let us know if you have one we can borrow.

We would love to reopen our Twice Blessed Thrift Shop. We need some volunteers who are able to commit to weekly shifts. Interested? Contact Kathy Sorce at kathryn.sorce@gmail.com.

We are considering becoming a drop-off spot for **Terracycle** – a company that offers recycling for items that are recyclable, but not generally accepted by municipal programs, such as disposable razors, medication packaging or cleaning products. Interested in being a part of it? Contact Lucille Holohan at littlelulu@optonline.net. <https://www.terracycle.com/en-US>

The Free Community Dinner provides take-out meals on the 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month. Our next Free Community Dinner To-Go is on Saturday, May 1st. **Pick up meals between 4-5:30 PM.**

Pastoral Care:

If you would like to receive pastoral care, please call us: church office (845)297-2800; Pastor Margery (914)539-5323 or Pastor Laurie (845)632-1124. Pastoral care will be offered by appointment only.

Please let us know how else we can support your spiritual needs.

Offering of Our Gifts and Ourselves:

Thank you for continuing to honor your pledges during this time. Whether you bring it to worship, send a check to the church office by mail or make your contribution using online banking, it is important that we maintain our ability to pay our bills as we continue to navigate this disruptive time as a church community. *Thank you for your generosity!*