

WELCOME TO THE PREAKNESS REFORMED CHURCH

March 23, 2025


10:00 AM in Berdan Hall

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



“God calls each and every one of us to conversion, to amendment of life so that our life looks more like the wholeness of the life God offers. If I come away from the Bible feeling that the problem with the world is that there aren't enough people like me in it, this is a good cue to keep reading, and to keep asking how God is calling me to conversion.”

New Testament Scholar Sarah Dylan Breuer

 Congregation standing, as able

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

GATHERING SONG

“Trust in You”

Lauren Daigle

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

 CALL TO WORSHIP

Today, we seek God's presence in our lives.

God continually surrounds us with a spirit of patience and persistence.

Even though we have not always produced the good fruit that God seeks, yet God forgives and heals our weaknesses.

And for this we Rejoice! Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!

During this Season of Lent we turn back our lives again to the Lord,
may God help us all to be servants of God's grace, AMEN!

 OPENING SONG OF PRAISE “Goodness of God”

(lyrics on page 5)

 SALUTATION

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (The children are invited to Sunday school at this time.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord God, be with us in this season of turning to your ways. We are called to turn away from all those things which have harmed us and others, to separate ourselves from actions and attitudes that demean and destroy. We confess that we want comfort, contentment, no stress, and no struggle. How we must try your patience! Heal us and forgive us this day...

(continue with silent prayers of confession)

SONG OF CONFESSION

“Lord I Need You”

(lyrics on page 6)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND FORGIVENESS

 PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you!

(Please share of sign of peace with those around you.)

EXPERIENCING GOD'S PRESENCE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING

Luke 8:4-15 (page 67)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ!

MESSAGE

Growing in God's Garden:
"Planting and Perseverance"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S BLESSINGS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE...concluding with the Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make us an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, **let us sow love.**
Where there is injury, **pardon.**
Where there is doubt, **faith.**
Where there is despair, **hope.**
Where there is darkness, **light.**
Where there is sadness, **joy.**

O divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, **as to console;**
to be understood, **as to understand;**
to be loved, **as to love.**

For it is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

 OUR MISSION AS THE CHURCH

265 “Lift Up Your Hearts” Hymnal

Lord God, we bless you for your charge to us to “make disciples from every nation and to teach them to obey all that you have commanded us.”

How grateful we are for your promise to never leave us or forsake us!

As we seek to plant the seed of your Word,
and to water the seed once planted,

teach us to trust and to testify that you are the source of all the growth.

As the seed of your Word is planted in our hearts,

help us—and all those around us—to be good soil, receptive to all that you desire for us to know, to love, and to do.

By your Spirit, increase our love and “knowledge and depth of insight:”

so that “we may discern what is best, and be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus, to the glory and praise of God!”

 CLOSING SONG

“Jesus Messiah”

(lyrics on page 7)

 BLESSING

 SENDING SONG

“Oceans”

Matt Crocker, Joel Houston,
Salomon Ligthelm

*Assisting God’s people in worship are Pastor Eric Nichols, worship leader;
Corine Miller, liturgist; Maggie Capone, worship host; Tech Team; Berdan Hall Band;
Dan King, Director of Music Ministries.*

Goodness of God

Ben Fielding, Brian Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, and Jenn Johnson

Verse 1

I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

Verse 2

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
And I have lived in the goodness of God

Bridge

Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me

Chorus x2

Lord I Need You

Christy Nockels, Daniel Carson, Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill, Matt Maher

Verse 1

Lord, I come, I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
And without You, I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart

Chorus 1

Lord, I need You, oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You

Verse 2

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are, Lord, I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

Bridge

So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus, You're my hope and stay

Chorus 2

Lord I need You oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You

Jesus Messiah

Chris Tomlin, Daniel Carson, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves

Verse 1

He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He humbled Himself and carried the cross
Love so amazing, love so amazing

Chorus

Jesus Messiah, Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel
The Rescue for sinners
The Ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all

Verse 2

His body the bread, His blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn
Love so amazing, love so amazing

Chorus

Bridge

All our hope is in You
All our hope is in You
All the glory to You God
The Light of the world

Chorus

🌿 Calendar and Notices 🌿

- Sun, Mar 23 9:15 am Sunday Scripture (Nan's Room)
10:00 am Worship Service (Berdan Hall)
10:10 am Sunday School
5:30 pm Lenten Dinner and Movie (Berdan Hall)
- Tue, Mar 25 9:15 am Helping Hands
5:00 pm PRC Ladies' Night Out (Vila Verde)
- Wed, Mar 26 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Thu, Mar 27 11:00 am Care Team (Nan's Room)
12:00 pm Brown Bags and Bibles (Parlor)
- Sun, Mar 30 9:15 am Sunday Scripture (Nan's Room)
10:00 am Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:10 am Sunday School
5:30 pm Lenten Dinner and Movie (Berdan Hall)



Today's flowers in the sanctuary are given in Honor of and to the Glory of God.

Please include in your prayers of intercession: Christina Gaboda, Patricia Lynch, Priscilla Durkin, Peggy Carroll, Cindy Van Lunen, Pat Deleu (friend of Kim Goerg), Mick (friend of Tiffany), June Jesch, and those awaiting diagnosis or undergoing treatments.

A VERY GRATEFUL AND HEARTFELT THANK YOU to the congregation for their support of Warm Feet for Warriors. We collected 213 pairs of socks to be distributed to Veterans in VA hospitals and included in care packages to deployed service members.

Book Group Update: Please note the following date changes for the upcoming book groups.

Tuesday, April 1	"The Way, My Way" by Bill Bennett
Tuesday, May 13	"Good Soil" by Jeff Chu



Growing in God's Garden

Throughout scripture, gardens are places of divine encounters, transformation, and redemption. From the Garden of Eden, where humanity fell, to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus surrendered to the father's will, and the garden tomb where death was defeated. Gardens tell the story of God's love, sacrifice, and restoration. This Lent and Easter, we will explore how God cultivates new life in places of brokenness, leading us to the ultimate victory of Easter morning. Join us as we walk through the garden and witness how God turns sorrow into joy, despair into hope, and death into resurrection.

We are excited to welcome Fawad Nasiri to our worship service today. Fawad is the Volunteer Coordinator for Refugee Resettlement for the Classis Mission Commission, and his job is to enlist people to assist refugee families by identifying their needs and matching them with appropriate volunteers. Fawad will be available after worship to answer questions and gather contact information of those interested in helping. You may also reach out to Fawad at volunteer@pondsnj.org.

It's not too late to RSVP for Ladies' Night at Vila Verde, located at 120 Terhune Drive in Wayne. Please join us this Tuesday, March 25, at 5 PM, when we will enjoy some fabulous pre-selected appetizers, cash bar, and fellowship. Please RSVP to Carol at tchuff8@gmail.com or text 973-390-9882 as soon as possible. Pre-pay \$30 (includes tax and tip) to Carol.

Please join us for our Sunday evenings in Lent at 5:30 in Berdan Hall, March 16-30th. The Youth will enjoy Game Night and Youth Olympics, and adults will watch "The Way," a film that follows a grieving father who walks the Camino de Santiago to honor his late son, finding unexpected friendships and personal healing along the journey. The movie takes place in France, Spain, and Portugal along the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route. We will have theme nights based on the movie and location. Please bring a dish that is enough to share.

Sunday, March 23rd – The Way - bring your favorite Spanish or Mexican dish.

Sunday, March 30th - Pilgrimages - bring your favorite Dutch or French dish.

Please click on the link in the eblast to sign up to bring drinks/desserts, and contact Annie McKay, Carol Huff, or Jennie Franklyn with any questions.

The **Easter Flower envelopes** are out! If you would like to make a contribution in honor or memory of someone special, please fill out an envelope and place it in the offering plate or the basket on the office door **no later than Mon, Mar 25**. Suggested donation is \$30. Thank you so much for making our sanctuary beautiful as we celebrate the joy of Easter!

This year's Easter offering will support the mission of JJ TenClay, our RCA Ministries Coordinator for Refugees. JJ TenClay, who spoke at PRC last spring and will join us again on March 30, provides support to missionaries working with refugees and provides opportunities to support families displaced by war and other unfortunate circumstances. This is a hands-on, boots on the ground ministry primarily serving the Middle East and parts of Africa. This ministry works to find displaced families a safe place to live, and helps uneducated refugee children attend their first school. Every dollar is critical and desperately needed by the ministry.

Applications for the **2025 PRC Memorial Scholarship Awards** are now available electronically on the PRC website, paper copies in the church office, or from Joan Vanderbush at djvander90@gmail.com. Applicants may attend or plan to attend a 2-year vocational college, a 4-year academic college, graduate school, or be enrolled in courses which help the individual progress toward his or her educational goals. The firm deadline this year is **Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11**. Any questions, please call or text Joan at 201-245-9844.

Please be certain to complete the 2025 application as it has changed from previous years. Also, please adhere to all directions and timeline.

Parents, if your children do not receive emails from PRC, please pass along this information. If there are any questions, please contact Joan Vanderbush.

☞ Assisting in Worship ☞

	<u>Mar 23</u>	<u>Mar 30</u>
Flowers	Tom Powers	Dave Parish
Counter	Ken Tanis	Jennifer Graf
Ushers	Effie Stern	Jennifer Graf
	Jessica Amato	Lyla Graf

☞ Consistory ☞

Elders

Amanda Deplet
Priscilla Durkin
Jennie Franklyn
Bill Weston

Hannah Kudrik
Marty Mariniello
David Parish

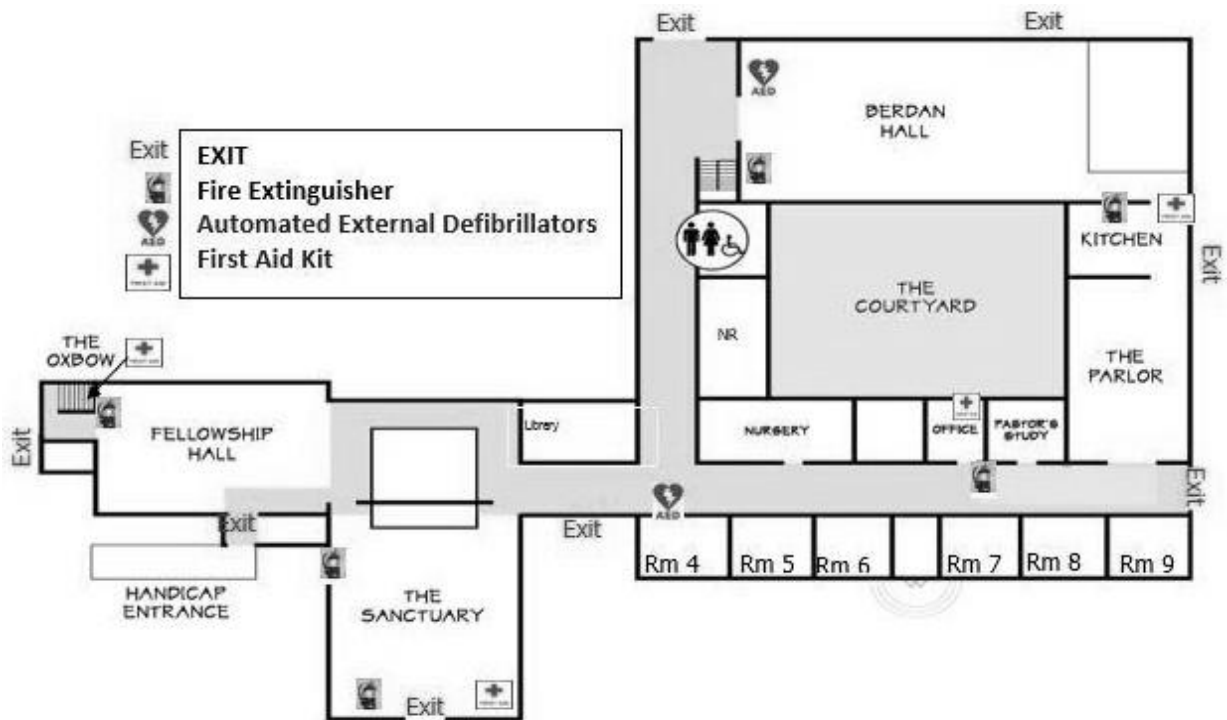
Deacons

Ken De Berry
Jennifer Graf
Tom Powers
Tim Coyne

Jessica Amato
Gaye Servideo
Vicki Lefelar

☞ Preakness Reformed Church Staff ☞

Rev. Eric Nichols, Senior Pastor
Rev. Kim Pavlovich, Associate Pastor
Daniel King, Director of Music Ministries
Kevin Lynch, Accompanist
Christina Collucci, Office Manager
Rev. Mary Marcus, Minister Emerita



Please note: If you need to exit the sanctuary during our worship services for any reason, you may exit thru the front of the sanctuary (the door beneath the cross), preferably during a transition time in worship (e.g. the beginning of a song, passing the peace, etc.).



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