

4th Sunday of Lent
March 27, 2022
1st Presbyterian of Rockaway
Join Zoom Worship (login beginning at 10:30 AM EST)
<https://zoom.us/join>
Phone in: (mobile or home phone) +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 468 322 0487
Passcode: FPCR2021 One tap mobile)
+16465588656,,4683220487#,,,,*67022253# US (New York)

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Amazing Grace”

Arranged by Jim Brickman

Please use this time to silently prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP (John 3:1-21)

It had been a long day.

The heat.

The crowds.

The life as it is expected.

He sensed something new with this man.

A breath,

a wind swirled and blew.

They met as the noise of the day faded.

A patient breath taught a perceiving heart.

“So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Open our hearts

to the wind sweeping through this room.

Open our whole selves to your abundant love. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God,

through Jesus Christ you bring salvation to the world. Give us strength to believe in him that we may share in his victory over the power of death and fulfill the purpose for which you have made us, for he dwells with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

***HYMN 216**

BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS

1 Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand, the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land; a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

2 Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see the very dying form of One who suffered there for me; and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess: the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

3 I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place; I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face; content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss, my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins before our merciful God and beg for God's pardon on this Lenten journey.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Our Heavenly Creator, all too often we see as the world sees rather than looking at life through heaven's eyes. Help us to see with your vision, help us to see with your wisdom.

Help us choose the path that leads to light.

Like Samuel, we fail to see value in others. As Jesus' miracle granted sight to the blind man, restore our vision to see your creation, our fellow creatures, and our fellow human beings as you see them.

Help us choose the path that leads to light.

When we feel overcome by darkness, help us to look to the light of the world. May we choose to turn our faces toward the light, time and time and time again.

Help us choose the path that leads to light.

Give us wisdom, God of creation, to see potential where others see despair, to seek grace where others seek revenge, and to see love where others see only hate.

Help us choose the path that leads to light.

Silent Prayer

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

***GLORIA PATRI (581)**

**Glory be to the Father; and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Ryon Herin

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that our hearts and minds may be opened. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Samuel 16:1-13

16 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴ Samuel did what the

LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"⁵ He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD."⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these."¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here."¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one."¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

John 3:1-21

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God."³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.'⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed.²¹ But those who do

what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

ANTHEM “Come As You Are” By David Crowder, Matt Maher, and Ben Glover

SERMON “When God’s Light Shines Through Our Darkness” Pastor Ryon Herin

***HYMN 800** **SOMETIMES A LIGHT SURPRISES**

1 Sometimes a light surprises the child of God who sings; it is the Lord who rises with healing in his wings; when comforts are declining, he grants the soul again a season of clear shining to cheer it after rain.

2 In holy contemplation we sweetly then pursue the theme of God’s salvation and find it ever new; set free from present sorrow, we cheerfully can say, “Let the unknown tomorrow bring with it what it may.”

3 It can bring with it nothing but he will bear us through; who gives the lilies clothing will clothe his people, too; beneath the spreading heavens no creature but is fed; and he who feeds the ravens will give his children bread.

4 Though vine nor fig tree neither their longed-for fruit should bear, though all the fields should wither, nor flocks nor herds be there, yet God the same abiding, his praise shall tune my voice; for while in him confiding, I cannot but rejoice.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Excerpt from the *Nicene Creed*

Creed

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Donations to One Great Hour of Sharing are used to help people who experience oppression, need, loss or lack. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing is given to these three life-saving programs:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, *Restore Streets to Live In*
Presbyterian Hunger Program, *Share your Bread with the Hungry*
Self-Development of People, *Loose the Bonds of Injustice*.

Envelopes for donations to One Great Hour of Sharing are available in the Narthex.

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**EASTER FLOWERS AND MUSIC**—Brightly-colored flowers and special music are traditions we enjoy during Easter. Funding is provided by your donations.

Would you like to help carry on this tradition? A donation of \$10 to the Easter Flower Fund buys one Easter plant. A donation of any amount to the Music Fund enables us to enjoy wonderful music for Sunday Services. You may also choose to honor someone with your gift, as a tribute or memorial. All contributions and honorees will be listed in the Easter bulletin unless anonymity is requested.

As a special bonus...if you contribute to the Flower Fund, the plant is yours to take home or you may donate it as a gift to one of our homebound friends. Fill out this form and put it in the offering plate or send it to the Church Office with your check no later than April 1

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(Tear here)

From: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

FOR \_\_\_\_ Flower Fund \_\_\_\_\_ No of Plants OR \_\_\_\_ Music Fund

In Thankfulness for \_\_\_\_\_

FOR \_\_\_\_ Flower Fund \_\_\_\_\_ No of Plants OR \_\_\_\_ Music Fund

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

I will will not (please circle one) Pick up my plants.

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**Donating to the Ukraine Disaster Relief Offering through the Presbyterian Church USA**

Please find the link below to donate to the Ukraine Disaster Relief Offering through the Presbyterian Church USA.

<https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/ukraine/>

**Calendar**

Sunday, March 27 Open & close—Rich Basile  
9:15 – 10:15 am Sunday School for Children and Adults  
10:30 am Worship Service—Sanctuary, via Zoom and Facebook  
1:30—4:00 pm MORE—Fellowship Hall

Monday, March 28 Office Closed

Tuesday, March 29  
9:00 am—12:30 pm Office Open  
9:30—11:30 am Bible Study—via Zoom  
12:00—1:30 pm AA Meeting—Fellowship Hall  
7:30—9:30 pm FA Meeting—Scout Room

Wednesday, March 30  
9:00 am—12:30 pm Office Open

Thursday, March 31  
9:00 am – 12:30pm Office Open  
6:20 pm – Beginner Bell Choir Rehearsal  
6:50 pm – Advance Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Friday, April 1, 2022 Office Closed **Deadline for Easter Flower Orders**  
Saturday, April 2, 2022

Sunday, April 2, 2022 Open & Close Pat Budis  
9:15 – 10:15 am Sunday School for Children and Adults  
10:30 am Worship Service in Sanctuary, via Zoom and Facebook  
2:00 – 4:00 pm MORE – Fellowship Hall

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**First Presbyterian Church**

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**Reverend Ryon Herin**

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**Church School—9:15 am Sunday Morning Worship Service—10:30 am**

**Office Hours:** 9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday,

Bonnie Pomeroy, *Director of Music* Robert Nichols, *Cemetery Sexton*  
Karen Basile, *Clerk of Session*

**Presbyterian Church Co-op Nursery School (PCCNS) - 973-586-3665**

Cheryl Piscopo; *Director*  
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