

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Second Sunday in Lent

10:00 A.M.

Prelude

Meditation for Lent

Paul Fey

***Call to Worship**

Thom Schumann, adapted

Leader: Lent calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads.

People: *Lent calls us to the ends of the earth, to remember and turn to the Lord;*

Leader: Lent calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good news.

People: *Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.*

Leader: Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

People: *Lent calls each of us to take up our cross, to trust the One who bears it with us.*

All: *Let us worship God, who journeys with us, this and every day.*

***Processional Hymn 718** Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said BOURBON

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

*Indicates that the congregation will please rise, in body or in spirit.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we have not been sincere in our faith. We claim to follow Jesus but have not taken his path of sacrificial love. We profess to be disciples, but we are not willing to bear the cost of discipleship. We affirm the virtue of self-denial, but we indulge our selfish desires and seek earthly gain. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for sincere repentance through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

***Hymn 583**

Glory to God

GLORIA

*Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!*

Message For All God's Children

(Children and Youth will go downstairs to Church School.)

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson from the Psalter: Psalm 22:23-27

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Anthem

Grant Us Thy Peace
Chancel Choir

Felix Mendelssohn

Lesson from the Gospels: Mark 8:31-38

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Sermon "Full Disclosure"

The Reverend Thomas A. Brown

***Hymn 727** (vv. 1-2, 4-6) Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

THE SERVANT SONG

***Affirmation of Faith (in unison)**

Adapted from the Confession of 1967

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

The 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.

Minute for Mission

Kai Markley

Call to Offering

Offertory Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley arr. Thomas Keesecker

*Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Recessional Hymn 838

Standing on the Promises

PROMISES

*Benediction

Postlude

Improvisation on *Bryn Calfaria* arr. Matthew Zabiegala

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Today's worship leaders are Associate Pastor Thomas A. Brown and
Elder and Deacon Moderator Linda Barnes.

Thank you to all of our ushers this morning.

Special thanks to our tech team Lynn Apolinaro, Gage Johnson and Carlene Pruitt
for their assistance today.

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: February 26 – March 2

Monday

9:30 am Next Act, Theos Room
6:30 pm Boy Scouts, Mulford Hall
7:00 pm Finance & Operations, Zoom
7:30 pm Mission & Outreach, Zoom

Tuesday

10:00 am Staff Meeting, Halldorson Hall
7:00 pm Prayer Shawl Meeting,
Griswold Parlor

Wednesday

5:45 pm Chat & Chew, Mulford Hall
6:00 pm Worship & Music, Staff Conf. Rm.
7:15 pm Christian Ed. Mtg, New Parlor
7:30 pm Cub Leader mtg., Theos Room

Thursday

6:00 pm Sanctuary Ringers, Sanctuary
7:15 pm Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Friday

7:00 pm Confirmation Class Visit to
Congregation Beth Hatikvah

NEXT SUNDAY, March 3, 2024

Third Sunday in Lent

The Sacrament of Communion

10:00 am Worship, Sanctuary; Nursery Care, A-9
10:15 am Church School
11:00 am Pancake Breakfast, Mulford Hall
3:00 pm La Fiocco Music Group, Sanctuary
7:00 pm Senior High Game Night, (hosted by the Young Family)

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

240 Southern Blvd., Chatham, NJ 07928 • 973-635-2340 • www.pcct-nj.org

The Rev. Thomas A. Brown, Associate Pastor, tbrown@pcct-nj.org

Matthew Zabiegala, Director of Music, mzabiegala@pcct-nj.org

Yvonne Anderson, Director of Family Ministries, yanderson@pcct-nj.org

Ceri Gilpin, Church Administrator, cgilpin@pcct-nj.org

Gloria Newson, Administrative Assistant, gnewson@pcct-nj.org

Lynn Apollinaro, Director of External Communications, lapollinaro@pcct-nj.org

Allie Goldstein, Bookkeeper, agoldstein@pcct-nj.org

Mark Van Nest, Sexton, mvannest@pcct-nj.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 25, 2024

We are delighted you've chosen to worship with us today. Please let an usher or minister know if we can assist you in any way. Our Sanctuary is equipped with an induction loop system for those with hearing difficulties.

TODAY AT CHURCH

Second Sunday in Lent

- 10:00 am** **Worship, Sanctuary; Nursery Care, A-9**
- 10:15 am** **Church School**
- 11:00 am** **Coffee and Fellowship, Mulford Hall**
- 11:15 am** **Faith Forward: Learn about LGBTQ+ Homelessness,
One Crochet Square at a Time, Halldorson Hall**



CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel Flowers are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of Jack Fields, Sr., father and grandfather, by the Fields family.

FAITH FORWARD: Learn about LGBTQ+ Homelessness, One Crochet Square at a Time This morning at 11:15 a.m. in Halldorson Hall

Kai Markley, PCCT member and senior at Kent Place School, is going for the Girl Scout Gold Award! We are thrilled to invite the congregation to a morning of education and crocheting! This project (which Pastor Tom helped advise) focuses on raising awareness about LGBTQ+ homeless individuals, specifically transgender people. Kai and their mom have been crocheting squares in the trans pride colors over the last six months and are excited to have PCCT members help connect them. The culmination of the project will be a symbolic donation of the blanket you help to create. No crochet experience necessary!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:

Tuesday, February 27, 7:00 pm in Griswold Parlor

Calling all knitters and crocheters - beginners, experts, and anyone in between are welcome! The prayer shawl ministry will be meeting in Griswold Parlor at PCCT on Tuesday, February 27 at 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be provided, so we can sip, stitch, chat, and learn to knit. Yarn and needles will be provided if you're a beginner or don't have a project in the works. Please email Anne Fields annekfields@gmail.com or Patti Montefusco atov@aol.com if you can attend or if you have any questions.

FELLOWSHIP PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Sunday, March 3, 11:00 am in Mulford Hall

On Sunday, March 3, all are welcome to join us in Mulford Hall for pancakes, sausage, fruit, and some gluten free options! This is a fun fellowship event for all ages! Freewill offering will be available.

SENIOR HIGH GAME NIGHT

Sunday, March 3, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Join us for a relaxed evening of games and fun. Hang out with friends new and old and hear about what we have in store for the coming months. We will have dinner and some fun competitions to enjoy together. Hosted by the Young family; please contact Emily Bakosi for more information emily.bakosi@gmail.com.



BLOOD DRIVE: Sunday, March 10, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

The Deacons are hosting a blood drive on March 10 in Halldorson Hall from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. To schedule an appointment, scan the QR code or go to redcrossblood.org and put in sponsor code: **Presbyterian Chatham Township** or call 1-800-RED CROSS. Faith Forward opportunity!

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH FELLOWSHIP: Mid-Winter Beach Party

Sunday, March 10, 5:00 -6:30 pm

Break out the shorts and T-shirts! Take a break from the winter blues and join us for an indoor beach party, featuring some favorite summer games. Dinner and devotion to follow. Bring a friend.

FAITH FORWARD: Prayer as a Spiritual Practice

The Reverend Mary Anne Collins-Stauffer

Sunday, March 17, 11:15 a.m., Halldorson Hall

"Nothing will change your life so completely, absolutely and forever like really learning how to pray." (Matthew Kelly)

The time of Lent is when Christians traditionally renew a focus on their inner life and relationship with God. One of the spiritual disciplines that help us to do this is daily prayer. On Sunday, March 17, we will have an opportunity to think more about how daily prayer fits into our lives. Rev. Mary Anne Collins-Stauffer will offer a Faith Forward presentation that morning after worship to discuss the practice of daily prayer, especially as it is presented in the book *"Celtic Prayers from Iona."* This book was written by J. Philip Newell during the time he led the religious community of Iona Abbey in the western isles of Scotland. Everyone will receive a copy of the book to take home.

PALM SUNDAY: March 24 at 10 am

The Rev. Dr. Edward M. Halldorson, Pastor Emeritus Preaching

Rev. Halldorson served as pastor of PCCT for 30 years during a time of great community growth and change. The fourth Senior Pastor of PCCT, Rev. Halldorson is the longest-serving minister in the church's over 60-year history. He was given the title Pastor Emeritus when he retired in January 2019. Join us at Coffee and Fellowship following worship.



THE "SANDWICH CLUB" - NEW!

Are you recently retired or nearing retirement? Have parents that need your support? Have young adult children who have or will soon leave your nest? This stage of life is sometimes referred to as the sandwich generation - hence a new fellowship opportunity known (for now) as The "Sandwich Club". Come reconnect with friends both old and new. No agenda. Simply social. The plan is to meet every 2 months during the winter, spring and fall. Cost of admission is an appetizer/dessert and or beverage to share! The first official meeting will be at Wendy & Jeff Benton's home on Friday, March 22 at 7 pm. Check the weekly PCCT news email for more info. Questions? Contact Cathy McAuliffe jgmcaul@aol.com. Hope to see you there!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024: June 24 – 28

The theme is the *Ultimate Scavenger Hunt!* This year's VBS will be a week long and will feature fun and creative activities, lessons, crafts, breakfast and lunch! The day will begin with a simple breakfast and the kids will then move on to stations including music & drama, crafts, recreation & games, and at the end of the day all of the kids will gather together for lunch. The cost for the week is \$150 per camper. Please feel free to pass along to friends that may want to attend. There are flyers in the lounge and you can sign up online on our website. Also, if you are interested in volunteering or need more information, please contact Yvonne Anderson at yanderson@pcct-nj.org.



LA FIOCCO MUSIC GROUP: Sunday, March 3, 3:00 pm

Please join us for our next Concerts@PCCT featuring the group La Fiocco. Since their founding, over 60 artists and 25 students coming from 10 states have performed with La Fiocco. For several, it was their first professional experience with a period instrument ensemble. La Fiocco's track record in providing opportunities for students and early-career musicians is exemplary, and it is in this spirit that they are delighted to have initiated their "The Next Generation" (TNG) project in the summer of 2023.

La Fiocco TNG is a smaller, more agile ensemble, featuring young artists Nathan Bishop and Elaine Yao as core players, joined by violist da gamba Srish Jawadiwar, a recent graduate of Temple University.

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said 718

1 Take up your cross, the Sav - ior said, if
 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight fill
 3 Take up your cross; heed not the shame, and
 4 Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, and

you would my dis - ci - ple be; take up your cross with
 your weak spir - it with a - larm; Christ's strength shall bear your
 let your fool - ish pride be still; the Lord for you ac -
 calm - ly ev - ery dan - ger brave: it guides you to a -

will - ing heart, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.
 spir - it up and brace your heart and nerve your arm.
 cept - ed death up - on a cross, on Cal - vary's hill.
 bun - dant life and leads to vic - tory o'er the grave.

Written by a nineteen-year-old in Connecticut, this challenging text has been widely printed on both sides of the Atlantic. It is strengthened by its resolute repetition of the same four words at the beginning of each stanza and by the appropriately stark shape note tune.

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant 727

The Servant Song



1, 6 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney; we're to -
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you
 5 When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall



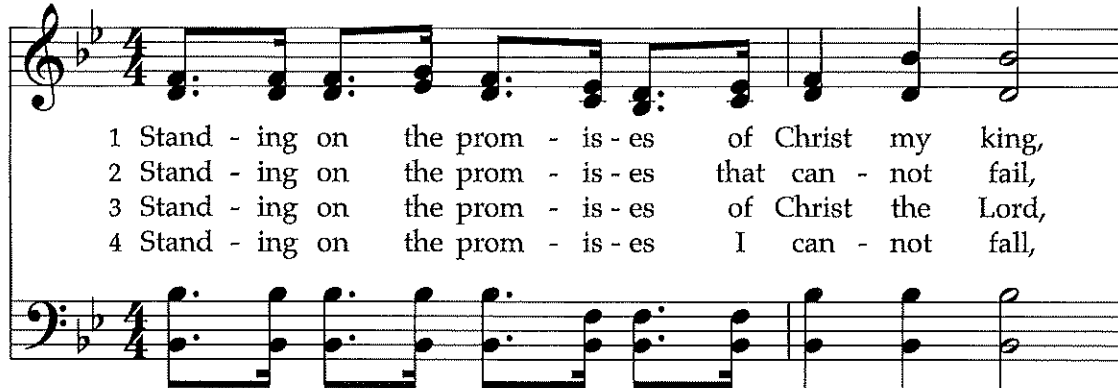
be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the
 geth - er on the road. We are here to help each
 night - time of your fear. I will hold my hand out
 laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and
 find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've known to -



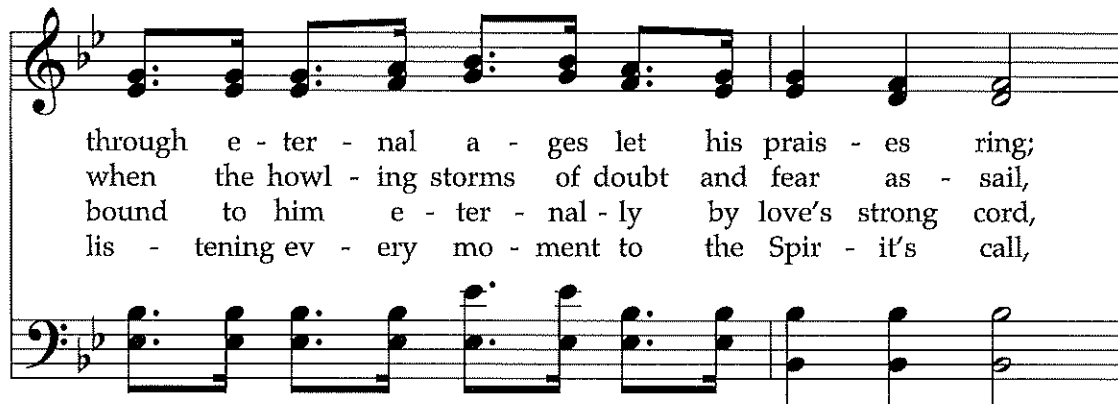
grace to let you be my ser - vant too.
 oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
 to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
 sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.
 (repeat stanza 1)

The opening and closing stanza expresses the essence of this folk-style song about the mutuality of servant ministry: those who serve must also be willing to be served. This is what Christ intended when he commanded the disciples to "wash one another's feet" (John 13:14).

838 Standing on the Promises



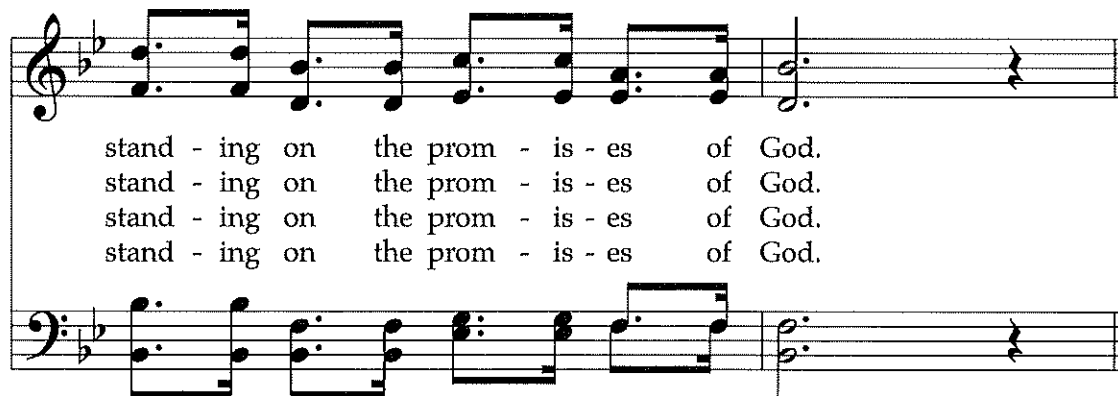
1 Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ my king,
 2 Stand - ing on the prom - is - es that can - not fail,
 3 Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ the Lord,
 4 Stand - ing on the prom - is - es I can - not fall,



through e - ter - nal a - ges let his prais - es ring;
 when the howl - ing storms of doubt and fear as - sail,
 bound to him e - ter - nal - ly by love's strong cord,
 lis - tening ev - ery mo - ment to the Spir - it's call,



glo - ry in the high - est, I will shout and sing,
 by the liv - ing Word of God I shall pre - vail,
 o - ver - com - ing dai - ly with the Spir - it's sword,
 rest - ing in my Sav - ior as my all in all,



stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.

Perhaps because this hymn is so well known, its language sounds vaguely scriptural; but while there are various biblical uses of "stand" and "promise(s)," the two words are never combined. The confidence here is similar to that of "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" (see no. 353).

TRUSTING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD

Refrain

Stand - ing, stand - ing,
stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,

stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God my Sav - ior;

stand - ing, stand - ing,
stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,

I'm stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.