

First Presbyterian Church of Newton

10:30 AM MARCH 17, 2024

* indicates when to rise in body or in spirit

(PH denotes The Presbyterian Hymnal

STF denotes Sing the Faith Hymnal)



QUOTE FOR MEDITATION

My dearest Lord.
Be Thou a bright flame before me.
Be Thou a guiding star above me.
Be Thou a smooth path beneath me.
Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me.
Today and evermore.

*~ from a longer prayer by St. Columba
(c. 521-597)*

WORDS OF WELCOME

INTRODUCTION TO A SPECIAL SERVICE OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Welcome to this ancient place -
this thin place between heaven and earth.

**All: House of prayer for many people;
Home to all who come.**

Leader: Welcome to this gathering place.

**All: Friend and stranger,
saint and sinner in all who gather here.**

Leader: Come with hope or hesitation; come with joy or yearning;
all who hunger, all who thirst for life in all its fullness.

**All: Generous God and generous Savior,
touch us through your Spirit.**

***HYMN** *“Lord of the Church, We Pray for Our Renewing”* TUNE: LONDONDERRY AIR

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION and HOPE (in unison)

Jesus, forgive our sins, we pray.

Forgive the sins that we can remember, and also the sins that we have forgotten. Forgive the wrong actions we have committed, and the right actions we have omitted. Forgive the times we have been weak in the face of temptation, and those when we have been stubborn in the face of correction.

Forgive the times we have been vainly proud of our own achievements, and those when we have failed to boast of your works. Forgive the harsh judgements we have made of others, and the leniency we have shown to ourselves. Forgive the lies we have told to others, and the truths we have avoided. Forgive us the pain we have caused others, and the indulgence we have shown to ourselves.

Jesus, have pity on each of us, and make us whole. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: May we trust in Jesus Christ to forgive and take away our sins.

People: May we always remember Christ's words:

“to go and sin no more.”

Leader: Let us believe the Good News: We are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God.

READING - CHRISTIANITY AND PATRICK'S STORY

ANTHEM

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

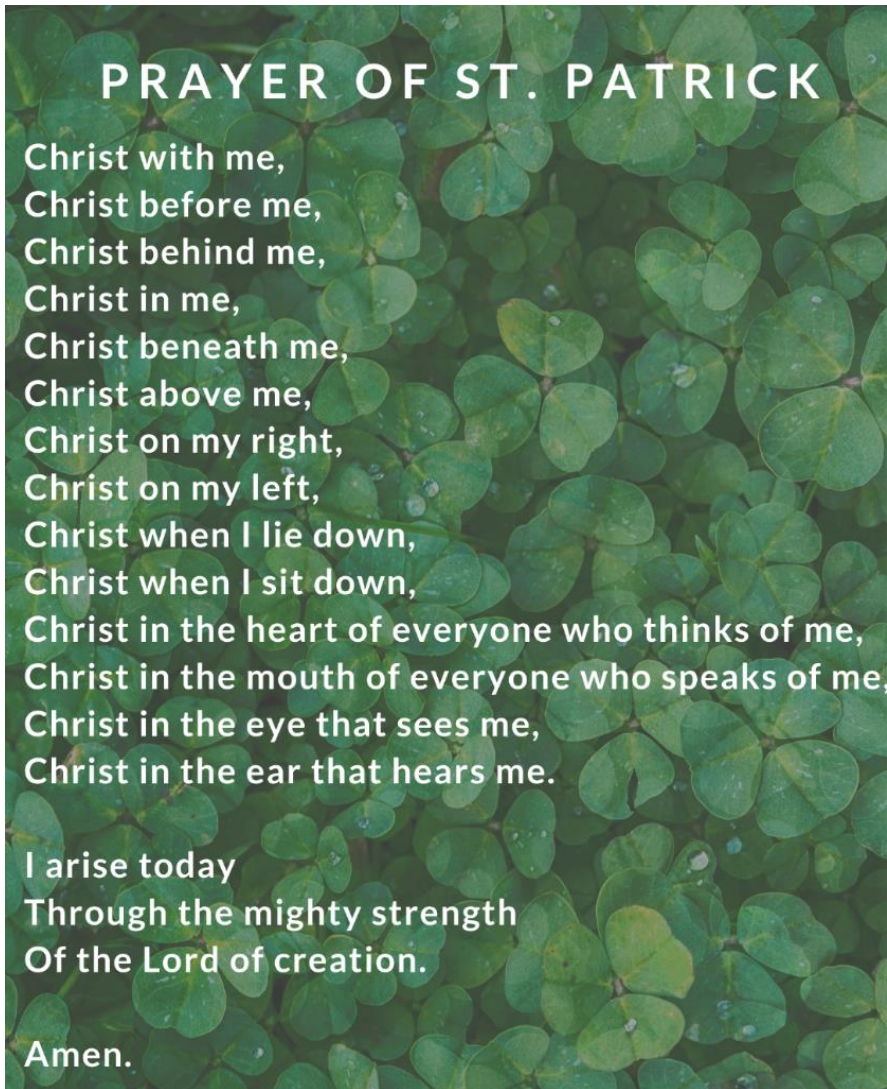
Traditional Irish Melody (SLANE)

Arranged by: Alan Bullard

Family Choir



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION - TRADITIONAL PRAYER OF ST. PATRICK



RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 28

Leader: To you, Lord, I call; you are my Rock,
do not turn a deaf ear to me. For if you remain silent,
I will be like those who go down to the pit.
Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help,
as I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place.

People: Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who do evil,
who speak cordially with their neighbors
but harbor malice in their hearts.

**Repay them for their deeds and for their evil work;
repay them for what their hands have done
and bring back on them what they deserve.**

Leader: Because they have no regard for the deeds of the Lord
and what his hands have done, maybe God will tear them down
and never build them up again.

People: Praise be to the Lord, for God has heard my cry for mercy.
The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in God,
and God helps me.

My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise God.

Leader: The Lord is the strength of God's people,
a fortress of salvation for the anointed one.
Save your people and bless your inheritance;
be their shepherd and carry them forever.

***HYMN PH 339**

"Be Thou My Vision"

TUNE: SLANE

READING - CHRISTIANITY AND COLUMBA'S STORY

Image of Iona Abbey



A TIME WITH CHILDREN

READING - SPIRITUALLY AND SOCIALLY INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY

MINUTE FOR MISSION - ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Gail Hoffman

CALL TO OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD'S SERVICE

OFFERTORY

* RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE PH 591 *"Praise God"*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from Iona Community for Lent

We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn;
in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands,
conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire.
We believe in a with-us God
Who sits down in our midst to share our humanity.
We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place
into action, into vulnerability, and into the streets.
We commit ourselves to work for change and put us on the line;
to bear responsibility, to take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation;
to stand with those on the edge;
to choose life and be used by the Spirit
for God's new community of hope. Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF PRAYER JOYS and CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A Prayer of the Iona Community of Scotland

ending with the LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

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

READING - EVERYTHING IS SACRED

*HYMN

“Put Peace Into Each Other’s Hands”

TUNE: ST COLUMBA

*SHARED BLESSING PRAYER (in unison)

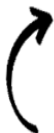
Lord, grant us simplicity of faith
And a generosity of service
That gives without counting cost
A life overflowing with Grace
Poured out from the One
Who gave everything
That we might show
The power of love
To a broken world
And share the truth
From a living Word
Lord, grant us simplicity of faith
And a yearning to share it. Amen.

POSTLUDE

We thank our Worship Leaders including Tom McNulty
and the Ushers/Greeters this morning.

E-Giving - *It makes giving easy!*

E-Giving is a convenient way to support our ministries. Here's how:



Scan Me

Scan the QR Code to make a donation through your smart phone. **OR**

Go to the church website, fpcnewtonnj.org and click on the **E-donate** button and sign up using your email and a password. You can make a one-time donation or sign up for automatic recurring donations.

More comfortable using a check? No problem, just drop a check in the mail.

As always, we thank you for your generosity and support!

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWTON
Week of March 17, 2024**

- Sun. 3/17 9:00 am Adult Study & Prayer
 9:00 am Faith Formation classes
 9:00 am Worship in the Chapel
 9:30 am Family Choir Practice
 9:45 am - 10:15 am Chime Choir Practice
 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary
 NO Youth Group
- Mon. 3/18 10:00 am Wired Word
- Wed. 3/20 8:00 pm Midweek Vespers via Zoom
- Thur. 3/21 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Readers INK Book Club
 7:00 pm Bell Choir
- Fri. 3/22 1:00 pm Hearts and Hands
- Sun. 3/24 Palm Sunday
 One Great Hour of Sharing Dedicated
 9:00 am Adult Study & Prayer
 9:45 am Family Choir Practice
 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary (One Service)
 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Girl Scouts
 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Youth Group Stuffs Easter Eggs

Our Staff

Interim Pastor Heather Morrison-Yaden

heathermorrisonyaden@gmail.com

Assoc. Family Nurture Colleen Duffy

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Office Administrator Janet Lasko

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Treasurer Jane MacDonald

treas@fpcnewtonnj.org

Organist Ann Socha

Bell Choir Director Melinda Kline

Choir Director Cate Pasculli

Child Care Heather Woods

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### Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Church Email Address: [admin@fpcnewtonnj.org](mailto:admin@fpcnewtonnj.org)

Church Telephone # 973-383-4420

54 High Street, Newton NJ

Church Web Site Address: [www.fpcnewtonnj.org](http://www.fpcnewtonnj.org)    [facebook.com/FPCNJ](https://facebook.com/FPCNJ)

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) (Search for: "fpcnewtonnj")