

**Philip ... proclaimed
to him the good
news about Jesus.**



First Presbyterian Church of Newton

May 2, 2021

*As we worship together while physically apart,
may we celebrate the unity
and the connections that are ours
through the gift of God's Holy Spirit!*

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the wilderness, water brings life.

People: Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.

Leader: In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

People: Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

Leader: In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

People: Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.

Leader: Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity.
Come and praise the One who gives goodness and life to all people.

HYMN STF #2236

"Gather Us In"

*Here in this place new light is streaming, Now is the darkness vanished away,
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,
Brought here to you in the light of this day.*

*Gather us in the lost and forsaken, gather us in the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young-our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old-who yearn for your face,
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, Called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in the rich and the haughty, gather us in the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.*

*Here we will take the wine and the water, Here we will take the bread of new birth,
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this place the new light is shining, now is the Kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

(Our silent prayers continue...)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: We have already been cleansed by the word that God has spoken to us. In baptism God claimed us and joined us to Christ, as branches to a vine. Let us believe the promise we have been given:

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Come, Holy Spirit, that through your word we may be guided into the love of God for all the world. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 22: 25-31

Leader: ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

People: ²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!**

Leader: ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the **Lord**;
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

People: ²⁸**For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.**

Leader: ²⁹To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

People: ³⁰**Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,**

All: ³¹**and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was

denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?”³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?”³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THOUGHTS ON THE TEXT

HYMN STF #2265

“Time Now to Gather”

***Time now to gather, time now to feel
Christ’s holy presence gracing this meal.
Grain from the harvest, fruit of the vine;
Simple the supper, sacred the sign.***

***Time to remember Christ who was sent.
Time to say, “Thank you” for all he meant.
Come to this table. Come, without fear.
God will forgive you, welcome you here.***

***All who are hungry, come, and be fed.
Serve one another this cup and bread.
All who are troubled, hurting, or sad,
Come, and find healing. Come, and be glad!***

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in one God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We proclaim Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen One, confessing him as Lord to the glory of God the Father.

In the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we acclaim Jesus as the Lord of the church, the Head over all things, the beginning of a new creation.

We acknowledge that we live and work between the time of Christ's death and resurrection and the final consummation of all things which he will bring.

We are a pilgrim people, always on the way towards the promised goal; on the way, Christ feeds us with word and sacrament, and we have the gift of the Spirit and the light of God's love in order that we may not lose the way.

We will live and work within the faith and unity of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, bearing witness to that unity which is both Christ's gift and his will.

We affirm that every member of the church is called to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

Together with all the people of God, we will serve the world for which Christ died, and we await with hope the day of the Lord Jesus.

SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD'S SERVICE

SUNG RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING PH #591

*"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 DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, strong and faithful God. All your works, the height and the depth, echo the silent music of your praise. (our prayer continues...)

So now, with all the powers of heaven and earth, we sing the ageless hymn of your glory:

Holy, Holy, Holy
(Santo, Santo, Santo)

2007



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dore you! My
¡San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! Mi



heart knows how to say to you: You are ho - ly, Lord!
co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res, Dios!

All holy God, how wonderful is the work of your hands! (our prayer continues...)

According to his commandment:

**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

Eternal God, let your Holy Spirit move in power over us and over these earthly gifts of bread and wine, (our prayer continues...)

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, forever and ever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of the children of God we pray as our Savior taught us, saying:

THE LORD’S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the bread of Heaven.

People: **We are one in Christ in the bread we share.**

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

People: **We are one in Christ in the cup we share.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE STF #2176

*Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant to day.*

~~~~~  
**OUR WORSHIP IS ENDED. OUR SERVICE BEGINS!**  
~~~~~

E-Giving - *It makes giving easy!*



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

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, we are checking the mail on a regular basis during the office closure.

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

Our Staff

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Organist: Ann Socha;

Bell Choir Director: Melinda Kline; Child Care: Heather Woods

Church Office Temporarily Closed

Emails and Phone Messages Checked on a Regular Basis During Closure.

Church Email Address: admin@fpcnewtonnj.org

Church Telephone # 973-383-4420

54 High Street, Newton NJ

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

www.youtube.com (Search for: "fpcnewtonnj")

(See Next Page for Congregational Life Schedule)



Virtual Congregational Life at First Presbyterian Church

May 2, 2021

Please subscribe to our YouTube Channel! Invite your friends to do so as well. It doesn't lock you into anything! But, a subscription makes it easier to use our YouTube channel. Here is the web address: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCifje87megV4T0c-tJ0hSjA>

New to Zoom? There is a brief Zoom tutorial video called “Using Zoom” on our church YouTube channel. Click on web address above, (subscribe!) then, click on “Using Zoom” to view the video. Chromebooks and other "Tablets" may require you to download a Zoom app that is specific to them. Others should not have to add this step in the process.

Sun. 5/2 **WORSHIP! (anytime after 7:00 a.m.)**

Our service will be on our YouTube channel. Go to: www.YouTube.com and search for: “fpcnewtonnj”.

If we have your email address you will also receive a link to the service. It will also be posted on the church Facebook page.

We are celebrating communion! If you wish to participate, plan on having some bread and some “fruit of the vine” on hand. This could be grape juice, wine (if you prefer), or another juice that comes from a vine.

9:00 am-9:30 am Children's Ministry Zoom gathering

for children preschool to grade 5. The Zoom link is
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6063804664>

11:30 am Congregational Check In Via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86810439616?pwd=b3VNLO0RGNOh2QWVBLzVrTkQ4Ynd3Zz09> Meeting ID: 868 1043 9616 Passcode: 745160

6:30 pm Sunday Evening Adult Study Zoom Meeting

Log in information: Topic - Sunday Evening Adult Study

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86042904750?pwd=N2VzdGtKOE0ZBV1NjUXJFbGR0SUFkQT09> Meeting ID: 860 4290 4750 Passcode: 805881

Or: If you have trouble getting online you may also dial into the meeting:

Dial by your location: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 860 4290 4750 Passcode: 805881

Continued on next page...

Mon. 5/3 **10:00 am Wired Word**

Here is the Log in information for Wired Word: Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88085103384?pwd=dThQblpyM2VqdnNZVTdkRjdreUFlodz09> Meeting ID: 880 8510 3384 Passcode: 842293

Or: If you have trouble getting online you may also dial into the meeting:
Dial by your location: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 880 8510 3384 Passcode: 842293

Wed. 5/5 **8:00 pm Midweek Vespers**

Pastor David leads a 15 minute service on Wednesday nights at 8:00 p.m. It includes psalms, scripture and prayer. Here is the link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81421096398?pwd=aFhM1R5eVA4U2xFdFgwQ1YrdrnNSdz09>

Sun. 5/9 **WORSHIP! (anytime after 7:00 a.m.)**

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11:30 am Congregational Check In Via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86810439616?pwd=b3VNL0RGNOh2QWVBLzVrTkQ4Ynd3Zz09> Meeting ID: 868 1043 9616 Passcode: 745160