

# First Presbyterian Church of Newton Gathering Out of Doors at Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center

10:30 AM SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

*\* indicates when to rise in body or in spirit*

## QUOTE FOR MEDITATION

"I thank you God for this most amazing day, for the leaping greenly spirits of trees, and for the blue dream of sky and for everything which is natural, which is infinite, which is yes."

E.E. Cummings



## WORDS OF WELCOME

## TEACHING A NEW SONG

## OPENING MUSIC

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Leader:** We gather together in the name of our God,  
the Maker of heaven and earth,

**People:** who calls us away from the customs and attitudes  
of the world around us,

**Leader:** and invites us instead into a transforming relationship with God

**People:** and with one another.

**ALL:** Let's worship God together!

**\*SONG**

**Father, I Adore You**

**2038**

1. Fa - ther, I a - dore you, lay my life be -  
fore you; how I love you.

The musical notation is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two staves. The first staff contains the first two lines of the first verse, with circled numbers 1 and 2 above the first and fifth measures respectively. The second staff contains the third line of the first verse, with a circled number 3 above the third measure. The piece ends with a double bar line.

- 2. Jesus, I adore you ...
- 3. Spirit, I adore you ...

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

**CENTERING PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS AND WISDOM**

Almighty God, You have set before us the path but we have wandered on our own to try to find our way. Sometimes we are like toddlers and we hear Your call and come back. Other times, we are children testing boundaries, ignoring Your call until fear finally makes us look back. And still other times we are full of youthful rebellion, demanding to be cut loose and set free, not knowing how much we still need to seek Your wisdom and guidance.

But most of all, too often we think we are adults and have figured it all our and know our own way, only to stumble and stray so far. Remind us, Parental God, that we are always Your children, that we are never fully grown up in Your sight, that we always have much to learn.

Help us to seek You every day, to acknowledge that we need Your wisdom and guidance, and help us to return to the path and walk with You. In the name of Christ, who is our companion on this journey of faith, we pray. Amen.

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

### SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:9-14 NIV

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

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

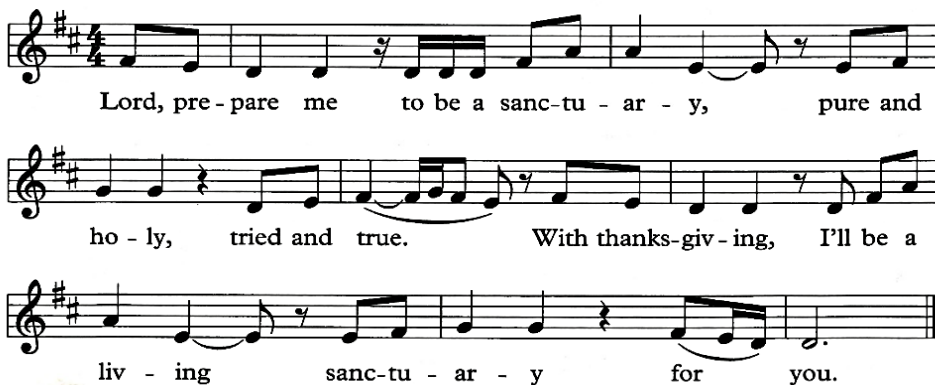
### MESSAGE

What does it mean to be Church?

### SONG (please remain seated)

2164

### Sanctuary



Lord, pre- pare me to be a sanc- tu - ar - y, pure and  
ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks- giv - ing, I'll be a  
liv - ing sanc- tu - ar - y for you.

WORDS: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs

MUSIC: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs

SANCTUARY

Irregular

© 1982 Whole Armor/Full Armor Music (admin. by The Kruger Organization)

### OFFERING

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

\*SONG OF GRATEFUL RESPONSE

# God Is So Good

658

1 God is so good; God is so good;  
2 God cares for me; God cares for me;  
3 God loves me so; God loves me so;  
4 God is so good; God is so good;

God is so good; God's so good to me.  
God cares for me; God's so good to me.  
God loves me so; God's so good to me.  
God is so good; God's so good to me.

The exact origins of this chorus celebrating God's providential care are not clear, but it seems to have arisen during the 1970s. Because the text changes so little, the slowly rising four-note pattern of the tune provides the primary source of energy within its five-note range.

TEXT and MUSIC: Anon.

GOD IS SO GOOD  
4.4.4.5

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

# 333

# Seek Ye First

LAFFERTY Irregular

Karen Lafferty (b. 1948)

Karen Lafferty (b. 1948)

D F#m G D G

Descant Al - le - lu - ia, Al -

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God And His  
2. Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you, Seek and

D Em A7 D F#m

le - lu - ia, Al - le -

righ - teous - ness, And all these things shall be  
ye shall find, Knock and the door shall be

G D G D A7 D

lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!  
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

**DWELLING IN THE WORD** Luke 10:1-12

*This is an exercise in listening and responding*

**STORYTELLING**

*Discernment is about community building and listening and storytelling and hearing what God is telling us all about our future together.*

**LUNCH**

**DISCERNMENT GATHERING**

*(Gather again with your same groups)*

**DESSERT**

**ACTIVITIES**

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Liturgical Resources:

Centering prayer for forgiveness and wisdom ~ written by Rev Mindi,  
and posted on Rev-o-lution. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>

## Our Staff

Interim Pastor Heather Morrison-Yaden  
[heathermorrisonyaden@gmail.com](mailto:heathermorrisonyaden@gmail.com)

Assoc. Family Nurture Colleen Duffy  
[colleen.duffy@fpcnewtonnj.org](mailto:colleen.duffy@fpcnewtonnj.org)

Office Administrator Janet Lasko  
[admin@fpcnewtonnj.org](mailto:admin@fpcnewtonnj.org)

Treasurer Jane MacDonald  
[treas@fpcnewtonnj.org](mailto: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")

