

Absecon Presbyterian Church

Welcome to Absecon Presbyterian Church! Thank you for being here to participate this week in a worship service centered on love of God for you, and your opportunity to participate in God's work to reconcile all things through Jesus Christ. This service is not made to be just another show to watch, but a place to interact as a community and join our voices in prayer.



INTERACTIVE ONLINE WORSHIP

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

The service outlined in this bulletin is meant to be interactive.

Please participate by reading all parts in *bold italic* and please feel free to comment, greet your fellow viewers, and type in prayer requests.

Another way to participate is using the reactions on Facebook to be a part of the service. *Please stand as you are able.

Preparing Our Hearts to Receive the Word

PRELUDE

Rick DeKarski, Music Director

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Debbie Wong

One: The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

All: He lays down his life for his sheep.

One: The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

All: He knows us, and we belong to him.

One: The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

All: He speaks, and we listen for his voice.

OPENING PRAYER*

Debbie Wong

We are your people, O God—the sheep of your pasture, the flock you have gathered. Lead us beside still waters; teach us the way of righteousness; and feed us at your table; through Jesus Christ, our good shepherd. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN #72

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

Accepting God's Grace and Forgiveness

CALL TO CONFESSION:

If we are honest with ourselves, our hearts condemn us. But God, who knows everything, is greater than our hearts; and God's deep

The Season of Easter

We are now in the season of Easter, which is a week of Sundays, leading to Pentecost. In this time, we focus on the resurrection as the amazing revelation that sin and death have been conquered. This empowers us as believers to live without fear as we embark on our calling to join in Christ's work to reconcile all things to himself. Indeed, we now await his return to make all things new and complete the divine restoration

What is a Call to Worship?

The Call to Worship is an interactive use of scripture, intended to help us remember that every service is a time of worship. God calls us to be citizens in the Kingdom through the church. This part of our liturgy calls the gathered to join the worship.

What is Confession?

To confess is to tell the truth. In this part of the service, we are first called by the church to confess our sins. We then tell the truth about our sins, or our separation from God caused by what we have done or left undone, and what others have done or left undone. By our prayer of repentance we seek to turn away from sin and turn toward God's Kingdom. Since it is God who ultimately calls us to faith and worship, we trust that our repentance is always met with grace, a free gift of mercy.

Forgiveness

Forgiveness is central to the faith of Christians. To forgive is not to say that an offense never occurred, but to tell someone they

are guilty, and that you will show mercy.
To repent and be forgiven is not to convince God that we did nothing wrong, but to give up any attempt to lie to the One who cannot be deceived and accept our conviction with mercy that God promises up front.

What is a Prayer for Illumination?

This prayer asks the Holy Spirit to open our ears to the Word of God and drown out our own voices. In this prayer, we are submitting to God's will, not ours.

Why are we reading these?

At APC, the readings each week are typically drawn from the lectionary, which gives options for readings from the Old and New Testaments, including a selection from one of the gospels.

The suggested readings to draw from for today are from Year B:

- Acts 4:5-12
- Psalm 23
- 1 John 3:16-24
- John 10:11-18

Affirmation of Faith

An Affirmation (or Confession) of Faith is a statement of what the Church believes. These bear central tenets of the faith and what is called the gospel, beginning with Jesus Christ, fully God and fully human, through whom we receive an eternal life – salvation – because of His death on the cross and His glorious resurrection.

A typical service at Absecon Presbyterian Church will include a Confession of Faith soon after the sermon. This allows the church body to follow up the specific preaching for the day with an added reminder of the big picture. This is the common faith of the Church as a

desire for us is mercy, love, and peace. Therefore, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

In Unison

Lord, have mercy on us. We talk about love, but our actions betray us. We talk about love, but we neglect the poor. We talk about love, but we fail to love one another. Lord, have mercy on us. Forgive us and abide in us by the power of your Spirit so that our lives may show our love for Jesus Christ, in whose body we live and in whose name we pray. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS*

Gloria Patri

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.

Receiving the Word Proclaimed

Response after each reading: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Debbie Wong

OLD TESTAMENT – PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; Your rod and your staff— they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

NEW TESTAMENT – JOHN 10:11-18

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring

them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

SERMON "Oh, How Foolish I Was!" Rev. Judy Fiocco

HYMN OF RESPONSE #499 "He Leadeth Me"

Responding to the Word

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH* The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again from the dead, ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- † For victims of gun violence and their families.
- † Peace in Ukraine, Middle East, Haiti, and the Sudan and other countries experiencing conflicts.
- † Members of our armed services.
- † For confidence to know that in the struggle, God is with us.
- † For renewed commitment to God's purpose in us all.
- † For us to come together in the bond of self-giving love.
- † For renewed energy in finding our place in God's church, as people who pray, share and volunteer.
- † For wisdom and discernment when facing the unknown.
- † For God's church to embrace the poor and marginalized, to see God's image and be God's image in this broken world.
- † For a revival in our faith to live boldly for God's Kingdom.
- † For these individuals and families in acute need right now who are connected to your church in Absecon.

whole, so while individual believers might struggle with their understanding of particular pieces of a Confession, the corporate expression reflects our unity and the faith passed down from Christ and the Apostles to us.

Prayers of the People

Each week the people of God at APC join in prayers of thanksgiving, praise and petition to pray as one community for needs in the church.

Praying for others keeps our focus outward and opens us up to know the will of God in our own lives. Consider making these prayer lists part of your daily prayer life. Doing so, may just help your feelings of isolation. Through prayer, the Holy Spirit brings others, even strangers, closer to you.

Here is our standing list of friends and family to keep in prayer at all times, for chronic health conditions and long-standing concerns. If there is an acute issue, they will be moved to the acute need list.

- ✠ Rita Abelson
- ✠ Kathy Boyte
- ✠ Edith Budd
- ✠ Emilia Carboy
- ✠ Lucy Croneberger
- ✠ Darryl, Kristen, Quentin
- ✠ Olga Davies
- ✠ Carol DeLaurentis
- ✠ Marie C. & Carmen Devece
- ✠ Gail Driscoll
- ✠ Kavonna and Essence
- ✠ Dorie Keener
- ✠ Eric Lajeuness
- ✠ Aiden and Wendy Licolli
- ✠ Marge Loeb
- ✠ Robin McBrearty
- ✠ JoAnne Morgan
- ✠ Essie Newell
- ✠ Rob Perry
- ✠ Joyce Pfeiffer

- ☪ Marilyn Rosado
- ☪ Irene Smith
- ☪ Georgina Umoren
- ☪ Mary Umoren and Family
- ☪ Ethel Washington
- ☪ Frances Weir
- ☪ Dirk Williamson

How can I give?

Please give your time by praying for your church and your community, and by checking in on your church family, including those you do not talk to regularly.

Please give your talent, by offering your skills when and where they are needed.

Please give from your treasure through your tithes and offerings in person or mail to:

Absecon Presbyterian Church
208 New Jersey Avenue
Absecon, NJ 08201

You can also give online at:

www.AbseconPresby.org/give

All gifts made online are safe and secure through the Presbyterian Foundation.

At this time, gifts to the General Fund and Benevolence are what is most needed.

† For those on our standing prayer list and for the needs of your church not listed here, including those intentions held in our hearts and those shared in the comments of Facebook.

Bonnie Bates, Vance Bauford, Kathy Bordanora, Doug Campbell, Maddie Caracozzo, Louis Carr, Aspen Channell, Don Croneberger, Robin Deaver, Jerry Falivene, Billy Forwalt, Cathy Follansbee, Wendy Garwood, The Family of Jim Gleeson, Linda Gormley, Christopher Green, Carol and Dave Guenther, Margareta Gustafasson, Jack and Dee Heil, John Harvey, Nelson Haws, Linda Hurlburt, Bob Kitchell, Carol Crisafulli Johnson, Walt Koteles Sr., Susan Lobrano, Carol McDowell, Jim McManus, Lin Migone, Lisa Nagle, Milton Reed, Jr. Chellee Roff, Jan Rogiers, Nani Rosa, Dave and Judy Stebbins, Sandy Sylvester, Stan Weir, James Zakrzewski.

CALL TO OFFER OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Debbie Wong

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Rick DeKarski

RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING*

Doxology 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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Debbie Wong

Bringing the Word to the World

CLOSING HYMN* #422

“Amazing Grace!”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION*

Rev. Judy Fiocco

PEOPLES’ RESPONSE* #298

“The Day of Resurrection”

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad; the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God. From death to life eternal, from sin’s dominion free, our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

POSTLUDE

Rick DeKarski, Music Director

MORNING PRAYER FOR THE WEEK*

Good shepherd, walk beside me through the joy and trouble of this day, and lead me in right paths for your name's sake. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER FOR THE WEEK*

Good shepherd, remain with me in the dark and stillness of this night, and let me lie down in safety to restore my soul. Amen.

**Prayers used/adapted from "Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion," © 2015, Westminster John Knox Press*

RECOMMENDED READING FOR THE WEEK

Read each day's passage in your home Bible or online. Each day at 6:30 a.m. the reading of the day and the morning and evening prayers will be posted at www.facebook.com/abseconpresby. Be sure to read the posts, comment with any questions you might have about the scriptures, then like and share too!

Monday: Acts 4:5-12

Tuesday: Psalm 23

Wednesday: 1 John 3:16-20

Thursday: 1 John 3: 21-24

Friday: John 10:11-14

Saturday: John 10: 15-18

*Absecon Presbyterian Church
208 New Jersey Avenue, Absecon, Nj 08201
(609) 641-3759*

www.AbseconPresby.org — www.Facebook.com/AbseconPresby

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Session

Rita Abelson
Janet Gee
Karen Little
Gwen Monhollen
Jackie Rosen
Scott Sabo
Ann Wallace, Clerk
Jo-ann Weller

Deacons

Vic Abelson
John Carsone
Bob Hudak
Donna Hughes, Chair
Bill Keener
Betty Price
Jo-Ann Sabo

Trustees

Amos Bhagwandeem
Woody Duncan
Scott Sabo, Chair
Sandy Shinsato
Melvin Washington
Don Wong

Music Director

Rick DeKarski

Office Coordinator

Teresa Barone

Technology Specialist

Frank Nale

Christian Ed Coordinator

Tina Harvey

Treasurer

Diana Kwaitkowski

Custodian

Linda Adkisson

Pastor

Rev. Judy Fiocco