



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

July 19, 2026

8th Sunday after Pentecost

*Large-print bulletins are available at both entrances to the sanctuary.
Activity bags & bulletins for kids are available in the narthex.*

***Indicates those who are able may stand.**



*The Chancel flowers today are given in honor of
the Friendship Circle, by Gladys Miller.*



**TODAY'S
HYMNAL**

All hymns today are in the **RED Hymnal**,
The Worshiping Church, unless otherwise noted.



Welcome & Announcements

Joys & Concerns

Prelude

Mike Rugge, Organist

We Come Into God's Presence

Call to Worship (L—Leader / P—People)

Psalm 67

L: God, be gracious to us and bless us.

P: Let all the peoples praise you, O God.

L: God, make your face shine upon us.

P: Let all the peoples praise you, O God.

L: May God's way be known upon all the earth.

P: Let all the peoples praise you, O God.

L: May the nations be glad and sing for joy.

P: Let all the peoples praise you, O God.

*Gathering Hymn

Congregational Selection

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 9:30AM

28 Seventh Avenue, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035

(856) 547-6139 † www.fpchaddonheights.org

Rev. Eliza C. Jaremko, Pastor

Dr. Chris Thomas, Director of Music † Mike Rugge, Organist



We Prepare to Hear God's Word

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Almighty God, you love us deeply, but we continue to insist on our own ways. You call, but we hesitate to respond. You invite, but we choose not to listen. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. God of grace, help us to admit our faults. As you come to us in mercy, may we turn our hearts and lives to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

L: Brothers and Sisters, if God is for us, then who can be against us?

P: **Since God did not even withhold his own Son, will God not give us everything else?**

L: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.

P: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

*Gloria Patri

#807 (*Red Hymnal*)

*Affirmation of Faith:

The Confession of 1967

P: **We believe God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of our minds.**

L: Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.

P: **But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant.**

L: The power of God's love in Christ transforms the world.

P: **Our Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.**

We Read and Proclaim God's Word

Time with Our Children

Installation of Deacons:

♦Candy Frantz (*1st Term*)

♦Margie Kent (*2nd Term*)

Commissioning of Trustees:

♦Bruce Erwin (*1st Term*)

♦Tony Masi (*2nd Term*)

Gospel Lesson: John 18:33-38

(*NT p.113*)

*Hymn: "In This Time of Great Reflection"

(*insert; vv.1-2*)

New Testament Lesson: Acts 15:1-19

(*NT pp.134-135*)

Hymn of Preparation: “Listen to the Word that God Has Spoken”

Listen to the Word that God has spoken;
Listen to the One who is close at hand;
Listen to the voice that began creation;
Listen even if you don't understand.

Sermon: “In Pursuit of *These Truths*”

Rev. Eliza C. Jaremko

We Respond to God's Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory: “Wondrous Love”

by Richard Walters

*Beth Eastman, Joanne Erwin, Mary Jane Lange,
Cheryl Walmsley, & Margaret Westfield (Vocalists)*

*Doxology: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Alleluia, Alleluia
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication

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.**

We Go to Live God's Word

*Closing Hymn: “In Christ There Is No East or West”

#697

Benediction (unison)

**May the Lord watch between me and thee, while we are absent
one from the other.**

L: Our worship together has ended.

P: Now our service begins.

Postlude



PRAYER CONCERNS



Please keep these people in your prayers this week:

- Adin Borden
- Sally Burrough
- Nancy & Bob Celebre
- Donna & John Duca
- Joe & Marie Guerra
- Lorrie Heuser
- Tony Logandro
- Barry Longmire
- Karen Mazak
- Evelyn Miraglia
- Carmen Muni
- Patti Pawling
- Dottie Rheinbold
- Michael Sabolcik
- Lynn & Tom Spina
- Deborah Blackiston
- Lauren DeCorte, Sue Hawco's daughter
- Marlowe Muni, Kim & Carmen's grandson
- Steve, friend of Tony Logandro
- Meegan Hussain, friend of the Heusers
- Dick Boyle, Candace Lowden's brother-in-law
- Will Baberick, Polly Mitchell's son
- Elijah Scardilli, friends of Hudsons' grandson
- Nancy Ruiz, friend of the Hudsons
- Mark Hart, Wayne Scribner's stepson
- Ginny McVarish, Douglas McVarish's sister

pray without ceasing
1 Thessalonians 5:17



THIS WEEK @ FIRST PRES...

Sunday, July 19

9:30am - Worship in Sanctuary & on FB
Installation & Commissioning of
Deacons & Trustees during worship

Wednesday, July 22

11:00am - Adult Bible Study, Zoom
(Rescheduled from last week)



Deacons

Tom Clarke
Margie Kent

Nursery

Abby Burrough
Maria Masi

LiveStream

Korey Owens
Erin Gallagher

Counters

Tony Masi
Suzanne Ritter

Scriptures for Today's Service

Gospel Lesson: John 18-33:38 (NRSV)

³³ Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸ Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

New Testament Lesson: Acts 15:1-19 (NRSV)

The Council at Jerusalem

¹ Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." ² And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. ³ So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the gentiles and brought great joy to all the brothers and sisters. ⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. ⁵ But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, "It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses."

(Continued on next page)

(Acts 15:1-19 continued)

⁶ The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. ⁷ After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. ⁸ And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us, ⁹ and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. ¹⁰ Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹ On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

¹² The whole assembly kept silence and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the gentiles. ¹³ After they finished speaking, James replied, “My brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴ Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name.

¹⁵ This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

¹⁶ ‘After this I will return,
and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen;
from its ruins I will rebuild it,
and I will set it up,

¹⁷ so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—
even all the gentiles over whom my name has been called.

Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things ¹⁸ known from long ago.’

¹⁹ “Therefore I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those gentiles who are turning to God, ²⁰ but we should write to them to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from sexual immorality and from whatever has been strangled and from blood. ²¹ For in every city, for generations past, Moses has had those who proclaim him, for he has been read aloud every Sabbath in the synagogues.”

(Verses 1 & 2)

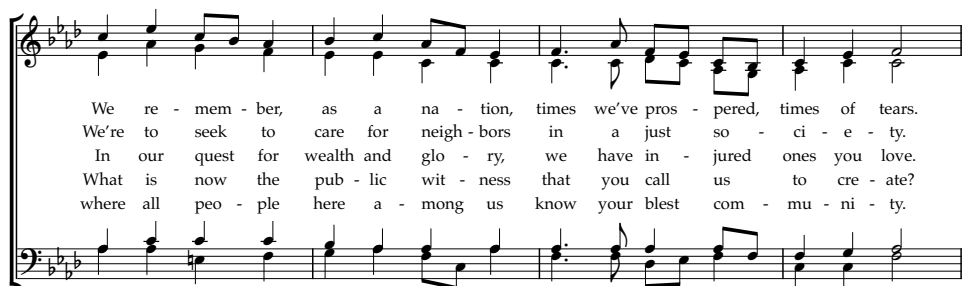
In This Time of Great Reflection

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2026

Restoration
Walker's Southern Harmony, 1835



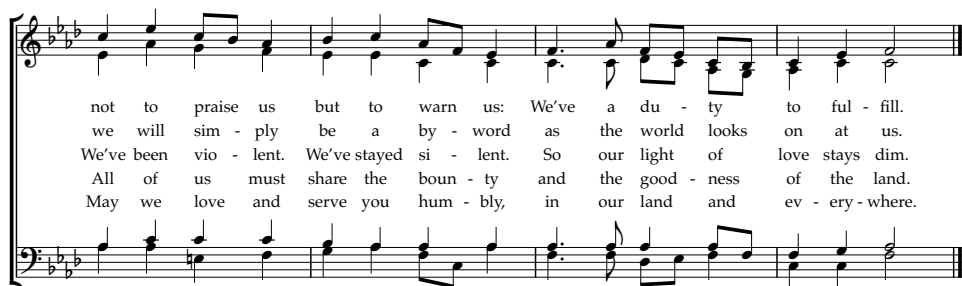
1. In this time of great re - flec - tion on two hun - dred fif - ty years,
2. Here is what holds us to - geth - er: Mer - cy, love, com - mu - ni - ty.
3. We re - call our na - tion's sto - ry. Keep us hon - est, God a - bove!
4. Will we work for ra - cial jus - tice? Will we turn from fear and hate?
5. In this time, O God, re - store us to the land we're called to be—



We re - mem - ber, as a na - tion, times we've pros - pered, times of tears.
We're to seek to care for neigh - bors in a just so - ci - e - ty.
In our quest for wealth and glo - ry, we have in - jured ones you love.
What is now the pub - lic wit - ness that you call us to cre - ate?
where all peo - ple here a - mong us know your blest com - mu - ni - ty.



"We shall be," a prea - cher told us, "as a ci - ty on a hill"—
If we fail to help the nee - dy and to build a land that's just,
Through en - slave - ment, through dis - place - ment, we have cho - sen ways of sin.
As we ce - le - brate our coun - try, help us, Lord, to un - der - stand:
May we seek to be that ci - ty, not with pride but as a prayer.



not to praise us but to warn us: We've a du - ty to ful - fill.
we will sim - ply be a by - word as the world looks on at us.
We've been vio - lent. We've stayed si - lent. So our light of love stays dim.
All of us must share the boun - ty and the good - ness of the land.
May we love and serve you hum - bly, in our land and ev - ery - where.

In Christ There Is No East or West 697

You are all one in Christ Jesus. Gal. 3:28



1. In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2. In him shall true hearts ev - ery - where their high com - mun - ion find;
3. Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your race may be!
4. In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet south and north;



but one great fel - low - ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
his serv - ice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man - kind.
Who serves my Fa - ther as his child is sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ - ly souls are one in him through - out the whole wide earth.



WORDS: John Oxenham, 1908, alt.
MUSIC: Alexander R. Reinagle, c. 1830

Words used by permission of Desmond Dunkerley

ST. PETER
C.M.

Church Announcements

THIS
WEEK
JUL 19

Looking to Serve? We're Looking for YOU!



Are you looking for a way to serve our congregation and church? FPCHH is looking for one more person to serve on our Board of Deacons. The term is 3 years with the option to renew for a 2nd term. Deacon's duties include serving as an usher typically 2 months of the year and a few Sundays in the summer. Our Deacons also coordinate our church-wide pancake breakfasts, the annual yard sale, and outdoor picnic in the spring. Please contact Al Andrews or Bill Burroughs if you are interested or would like more information about the role.

Don't Forget to Bring in Your Summertime School Supplies

Our Missions Committee is still collecting school supplies for elementary schools in Haddon Heights, Barrington, Lawnside and Collingswood. Donations should be brought in by **Sunday, August 2**, & can be placed in Room 2 and/or the Missions cabinet in the parlor. Suggested items:

- #2 pencils
- 24-pack crayons
- glue sticks
- pocket folders
- dry erase markers
- highlighters
- composition books
- ball point pens (red, blue, black)
- spiral notebooks
- 1" and 2" binders
- Packs of 3x5 index cards
- post-it notes
- notebook paper
- pencil erasers, cap and pink



Project: Birthday Kits

What kid doesn't love birthday cake with candles, special plates & napkins? What parent doesn't love to provide these things for their child? How does one weigh buying all these special items against nutritious food when they are food insecure? All good questions. The Mission Committee wants to provide **"Birthday Kits"** and we need your support. In July and August, we are asking the congregation to purchase a **cake mix** and a **can of icing** (or more). Our goal is to have 50 cake mixes and cans of icing by Sunday, August 23. Missions will purchase 50 each of cake pans, candles, plates & napkins to complete the kits. We'll also **match each and every birthday kit**, so that we will have 100 by the end of August. On August 30 (our Mission Service Sunday!), everyone is invited after worship to help us pack up the completed kits for a special birthday celebration for these families.





For July: Cleaning Supplies (Yes, again!)





June 21
through
Sept. 6

SUMMER WORSHIP

9:30am

We Hold These Truths: A Sacred Conversation A Summer Sermon Series

"In Pursuit of 'We'": July 12 (Genesis 11:1-9; Acts 2:1-12, 43-47)

"In Pursuit of 'These Truths'": July 19 (John 18:33-38; Acts 15:1-19)

"In Pursuit of 'Equality'": July 26 (Genesis 1:26-31; James 2:1-8)

"In Pursuit of 'Their Creator'": August 2 (Micah 6:18; Matthew 25:31-46)

"In Pursuit of 'Life'": August 9 (Deuteronomy 30:11-20; John 10:10a-18)

"In Pursuit of 'Liberty'": August 16 (Exodus 3:1-11; Luke 4:16-21)

"In Pursuit of 'Happiness'": August 30 (Psalm 1; Matthew 5:1-11)

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such Principles and organizing its Powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all reference to insurrection and rebellion against Government should be discontinued, but when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Tyranny, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — That the history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in their direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. — That the history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in their direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. — That the history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in their direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States.

PERSEVERING *toward* WHOLENESS

The 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, addressed constitutional governance, racial justice, gender justice, denominational finances and the direction of the church, laying groundwork for work continuing through the next assembly.

Co-moderators elected, GA228 to be held in Puerto Rico

Commissioners elected the **Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero**, border ministry coordinator for the Tres Rios Border Foundation in Tres Rios Presbytery, and the **Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer**, pastor and head of staff at First Presbyterian Church in Davenport, Iowa, as co-moderators. They will preside at GA228, June 11-22, 2028, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Commissioners also **approved full, in-person assemblies**, including an exhibit hall, beginning in 2030.

Budget and per capita

Commissioners approved a **balanced \$188.4 million unified budget** for Presbyterian Life & Witness (PL&W) and the A Corporation for the 2027–2028 biennium, about \$5.8 million more than the previous budget: \$90.45 million for 2027 and \$97.92 million for 2028. Per capita rates were set at \$13.04 in 2027 and \$12.72 in 2028.

General Assembly Relationships

The GAR Committee approved the new Organization for Mission, the structure for the General Assembly as the denomination's highest council, and **established PL&W** and its governing board.

Israel/Palestine

Commissioners approved RIW-04, declaring that the **Israeli government has violated international law** prohibiting genocide in its war in Gaza. As amended, RIW-04 directs the denomination's Office of Public

Witness to advocate against U.S. military sales to Israel and purchases from Israel. It also encourages members to avoid products from Israeli companies linked to violations of international law.

Constitutional interpretation, missiology, and mission co-worker dismissals

Following testimony on staff dismissals during **World Mission's closure**, the assembly approved CON-02, directing PL&W and the A Corporation to revise employment policies to prohibit nondisclosure covenants for employees, with a report due to the 2028 assembly. RIW-01 calls for review of the processes that terminated mission co-worker positions and World Mission. RIW-02 directs the development of a new missiological statement for global engagement.

Pastors will now be required to complete **boundary and abuse-prevention training** at least every three years. An overture to remove the Board of Pensions' medical coverage requirements was rejected.

Commissioners referred CON-10, which seeks an authoritative interpretation of monogamy, for discussion within the theological framework proposed in GEN-09, "Beyond Changing Families."

Gender and Sexuality Justice

The Constitutional Interpretation Committee **rejected a call for a special study of the Olympia Overture amendments**, citing



related proposals GEN-06 and GEN-09. GEN-06 directs the development of a mechanism that would allow congregations to indicate their openness and readiness to call an LGBTQIA+ candidate on their Ministry Discernment Profiles. Candidates would be allowed to view congregational responses. GEN-09, “Beyond Changing Families: Flourishing Relationships and Belonging,” seeks a theological framework and a study guide on human sexuality and gender that reflect the PC(USA)’s commitment to full inclusion.

The assembly reaffirmed support for **access to medically necessary gender-affirming healthcare** and approved development of a survey collecting non-identifying information about sexual misconduct in church settings.

Climate and Environmental Justice

The Climate Justice Committee approved CLJ-02, “Changing Course for a Green Future,” **directing divestment from more than 50 companies** by 2030 and barring new investments in them. All CLJ items were placed on the consent agenda, including a call for education on regenerative farming and prioritizing responses to the climate crisis.

White Christian nationalism

Commissioners voted overwhelmingly to declare White Christian nationalism and similar ideologies “**a theological error**” incompatible with the teachings of Jesus Christ; language changes in the *Book of Order* require presbytery ratification. Commissioners rejected an amendment that would have removed references to White Christian nationalism from the Special Committee on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Race report.

Racial justice

The Racial Justice Committee advanced several recommendations **strengthening**

the denomination’s anti-racism work, including RAC-04, “The Report from the Special Committee on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on Race,” directing “PL&W to create a tracking system that displays the progress/completion of all GA business... related to race, racism, and White supremacy ...”

RAC-01 calls for PC(USA) entities to report to the 228th GA on implementation of RGJ-13, the 2022 Report from the Disparities Experienced by Black Women and Girls Task Force. RAC-03, the “Resolution on Liberia Project 180,” explores establishing theological learning and repair, and developing **acknowledgment and apology for Presbyterian involvement** in and support of the American Colonization Society and its lasting effects on Indigenous Liberians.

Ordered ministry

The Theological Education and Ordination Committee approved changes **modernizing preparation for ministry** while preserving Presbyterian ordination standards. ORD-02 clarifies that ministry preparation in G-2.06 and G-2.07 of the *Book of Order* applies to those training for the ministry of Word and Sacrament; it requires a two-thirds presbytery vote. ORD-03, addressing collaborative ministry teams, was approved; ORD-04, seeking removal of the time-of-service requirement for ruling elders in mid council roles, was not.

A new confession

A newly appointed special committee will continue **considering a new confession**. The draft seeks to articulate Christian faith in response to contemporary challenges including racism, economic inequality, environmental degradation, violence and political polarization.

For full stories about General Assembly or other news from the PC(USA):

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