

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2023

Gathering

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDE *Traci Bopp, Musician*

WELCOME & LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION
Dave Sippel, Minister of Congregational Engagement

Expansion of Our Hearts

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsive)*
Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all you lands.
**Tell his glory among the nations; among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.
Give the Lord glory and honor.**

For great is the Lord and highly to be praised; awesome is he, beyond all gods.
For all the gods of the nations are things of nought, but the Lord made the heavens. Give the Lord glory and honor.

Give to the Lord, you families of nations, give to the Lord glory and praise;
give to the Lord the glory due his name! Bring gifts, and enter his courts. Give the Lord glory and honor.

NEW CITY KIDS INTRODUCTION *Jessie Davis, Executive Director*

*GATHERING SONG (on screen) **"Glorious Day"** *by All Nations Worship and/or Passion
New City Kids*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE
May the peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**
(Children may leave for their classes. Youth will stay in worship)

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE *by Moira Laidlaw*
If we conceal your love because our pursuit of other priorities prevents us from seeing
and serving people in need: **forgive us, Lord.**

If we conceal your glory because all we reflect is our own self-centeredness:
forgive us, Lord.

If we conceal your truth through our lack of credible witness: **forgive us, Lord.**

If we conceal your justice through our failure to empower those who are
powerless: **forgive us, Lord.**

If we conceal your mercy because of our hard and unforgiving attitudes:
forgive us, Lord.

If we conceal your compassion because of our prejudice and intolerance:
forgive us, Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, cleanse our lives of all shameful attitudes of mind and heart so that we reveal your glory in and through all we do and say and are. This we pray in your name and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SONG (on screen) **"Joy"** *by Vashawn Mitchell*

Reception of God's Word

PREPARATION FOR READING
Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scriptures. **Our hearts and minds are open.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1 (NRSV-UE)
14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from the worship of idols. 15 I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. 16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? 17 Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. 18 Consider the people of Israel: Are not those who eat the sacrifices partners in the altar? 19 What do I imply, then? That food sacrificed to idols is anything or that an idol is anything? 20 No, I imply that what they sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be partners with demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. 22 Or are we provoking the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?
23 "All things are permitted," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are permitted," but not all things build up. 24 Do not seek your own advantage but that of the other. 25 Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience, 26 for "the earth and its fullness are the Lord's." 27 If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. 28 But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, out of consideration for the one who informed you and for the sake of conscience— 29 I mean the other's conscience, not your own. For why should my freedom be subject to the judgment of someone else's

conscience? 30 If I partake with thankfulness, why should I be denounced because of that for which I give thanks?

31 So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

32 Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, 33 just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage but that of many, so that they may be saved. 11 1 Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

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

RESOLUTIONS Resolution 43-45

Resolved, never henceforward, till I die, to act as if I were any way my own, but entirely and altogether God’s.

Resolved, that no other end but religion, shall have any influence at all on any of my actions; and that no action shall be, in the least circumstance, any otherwise than the religious end will carry it.

Resolved, never to allow any pleasure or grief, joy or sorrow, nor any affection at all, nor any degree of affection, nor any circumstance relating to it, but what helps religion.

MESSAGE “Excuse Me, Is This Demonic Mystery Meat Grass-Fed?”

Steven Clark, Ministry Intern

Transformation of Our Lives

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION FOR CONNECTION & CONTRIBUTION

Compassion for the World

*SENDING SONG (on screen) **“Spirit Break Out”** *by William McDowell*

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

** Indicates to please, stand, if able.*

Long Term Illnesses

Logan Boncek, Gloria Krueger's cousin's grandson. **Judy Lento**, Pat Lento's sister in law, reoccurrence of bladder cancer. **Charles Cunningham**, Pat's husband, recurring bladder cancer. **Dee Patrick**, ongoing health issues. **Gail Berkshire**, (Jane Young's friend) cancer on her vocal cords. **Jeanine Tedeschi**, **Rose Chara's niece**, ovarian cancer. **Dolores Garritano (Gloria Krueger's sister) and family**, her son Peter Garritano and son in law Jim Jenkins all have serious health problems. **Maggie Bowsher's brother Jake**, undergoing radiation treatments. **Jim**, Lynn Rayner's brother, has numerous serious chronic health conditions. **Candace**, Jane Young's sister, metastatic breast cancer. **Patti Moffa**, Alyse Cafasso's friend, breast cancer. **Amy Griffith**, prayers for ongoing issues with breast cancer. **Adele Ebert**, Shell's mom, breast cancer. **Paul**, Susan De Bell's brother, treatment for cancer. **Michael Clark**, Sharon Hollick's son in law, melanoma

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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Cemetery – Elaine Bednarek, Cemetery Office Mgr (x10) frcemetery@optimum.net
(For a full list of staff, visit our website)

CONSISTORY MEMBERS

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TODAY & THIS WEEK

SERMON SERIES 'RESOLVED' CONTINUES: This week we continue our sermon series on Jonathan Edwards' Resolutions. We will address the exhaustive scope of God's loving concern with how we live our lives.

AN UPDATE FROM CONSISTORY: Congratulations to Dave Sippel, who received a renewed provisional license to preach from the Reformed Church of America. Dave, upon completion of all course work as well as fulfilling any requirements made by Classis, will have the opportunity to become fully ordained providing he has a church to serve. The Consistory of the First Reformed Church would like to issue a letter promising a call to Dave Sippel. Any comments and or clarifications should be addressed to Roy Okma roy.okma@frc-pp.org no later than February 11, 2023.

***SAVE THE DATE* - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26th:** The Pastoral Search Team is proud to announce that they have identified a great candidate for our open Co-Pastor position. That candidate will be coming to First Reformed Church for a visit on Sunday, February 26th. They will be preaching and they'll be available for a meet-and-greet after worship. There will be only one service, which will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. A congregational vote will be held after church. In order to vote you must be physically present for both worship and the congregational meeting.

NEW ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY STARTING NEXT WEEK: FRC will, as usual, have a Lenten study starting at the end of February. However, if you're interested in learning more about your faith, Steven will be offering a 4 week study on church history on Wednesday nights, 6:30 p.m., Feb 1, 8, 15, 22 in the Blue Room of the Ministry Center. The sessions will cover the initial ancient church, the high medieval Roman Catholic Church, the Reformation, and some selection of modern Christian history chosen in consultation with the group. The chapters are only 10 pages long. Anyone who signs up for the study will receive a book, with the option for a free will donation to reimburse the church for your copy if you so choose. Sign up on our website www.firstreformedchurch.com/events

GIVE/SERVE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COATS AND GIFTS: Wow, the response to the coat drive and the gifts for Bessie Green was overwhelming. You gave over 40 gifts from a dog grooming kit to kitchen dishes and gifts for children. Over 100 coats were collected for those in need of warmth this winter season. Thank you so much for your continued generosity and support of those in Newark.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MARKET STREET MISSION IN MORRISTOWN: Market Street Mission is the largest continuous running mission in the country. Approximately 50 men live at the mission for 6-9 months while going through an extensive drug/alcohol program based on a Christ centered message and hard work. Along with the men's drug and alcohol addiction program, the mission serves as an emergency shelter, and offers meals, drug addiction and recovery groups and emergency counseling services to the public. Our church has had the honor of serving dinner to the guests of the mission on the 4th Monday of each month for many years. We are in need of volunteers to serve - maybe one or two times a year. You arrive at the mission by 4:45 and are done by 6:15. If you are interested in serving at the Market Street Mission, please contact Sue Hellyer at suec42@optonline.net or 973-263-1514.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 1,8,15,22 – Church history study 6:30 p.m. in the Blue Room

FEBRUARY 3 – Game Night 7:00 pm. in Keator Parlor

FEBRUARY 4 – Youth Mission Fundraiser Concert, Saturday, February 4th, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The FRC youth ministry will be partnering with Shamrock School of Music for a concert to benefit youth missions. The concert will be held at the Debonair Music Hall in Teaneck. Tickets (donations) for the concert can be purchased here on our website:

<https://firstreformedchurch.com/events/>

You can also contribute by sponsoring a song on the day of the event. Fill out the form on the website above.

FEBRUARY 10 – Karaoke night 6:30 p.m. in Friendship hall

FEBRUARY 12 – Youth big game party 6:30 p.m. in the FUEL room

FEBRUARY 20 – Church office closed

FEBRUARY 22 – Ash Wednesday; Services at FRC 7:00 a.m. in the sanctuary and at Pompton Reformed in Pompton Lakes at 7:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 26 – Candidate for Co-Pastor will preach at the 10:00 a.m. service, which will be the only service that day. A congregational vote will be held after church, and there will be a meet-and-greet in Friendship Hall. Must be physically present for both worship and meeting in order to vote.

FEBRUARY 27 – Laughing Yoga 7:00 p.m. in Friendship Hall. All ages. No mat required

MARCH 11-12 – Grains of Hope Food Packing at P.V. Middle School. Pack nutritionally fortified macaroni and cheese meals for the hungry of Ukraine & NJ. Each job is simple, and we will show you how! We will need a lot more volunteers on Saturday (set up day) this year because we will be inserting cheese packets in all the bags on Saturday. Register at <http://goh2301.eventbrite.com/>

FINANCIALS

Please reflect in prayerful consideration what contributions you can make:

1. **It's not too late to Pledge Your 2023 Financial Giving:** Pledges can be submitted online by choosing "Stewardship 2023" from the "Give/Serve" menu option. You can also fill out a pledge card in the back of both worship spaces
2. **Give Electronically:** Have your weekly or monthly contribution debited from your checking or savings account and transferred directly into the church account safely and electronically. You can also set-up the contribution with a credit card.

Mail checks to The First Reformed Church, Attn: Ann Marie Ziffer (Finance Manager), 529 Newark Pompton Tpke., Pompton Plains, NJ 07444. Ann Marie has office hours Monday thru Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. - 973-835-1144 (x14) or annmarie@frc-pp.org
Visit our website at www.firstreformedchurch.com and choose the blue "Donate" button.

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Pat Lento, undergoing testing. Cards to 28 Patania Court, Lincoln Park, 07035

John Bopp, Traci Bopp's dad, was released from the hospital Wednesday and is recovering at home from triple bypass surgery. Prayers for his recovery.

Brian Groelly, friend of Gloria Krueger, health concerns and dealing with pain

FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE:

Roger Knight III, Sue's husband, passed away suddenly on Jan. 20. Services were held this past week. Cards to Sue 70 West End Ave, Pompton Plains, 07444. Prayers for his daughter Jennifer and Christopher Kasker (14 Clubhouse Road Ext, Tuxedo Park, NY 10987) and his son Arthur and Catherine Knight

Lois Alworth (93), mother of Guion Valle, Passed away Sunday January 15. Cards to Rich & Guion 369 Boulevard, Pompton Plains, 07444

Joan Witwer (96), passed away on January 1. Her and her husband Warren were married here and were longtime members of this church. Memorial service will be held on April 22 at 11:00 a.m., Giles Chapel, 77 DeForest Ave, East Hanover

Dave Way passed away on January 10. A service will be held here on March 11 at 1:00 p.m. followed by a repast in Friendship Hall