



April 20, 2025

"Jesus is a figure of the present and not simply of the past. He continued to be experienced by his first followers after his death and continues to be experienced to this day. It's not just that his memory lived on or that his spirit lived on, as we sometimes speak of the spirit of Lincoln living on. Rather, he was and is experienced as a figure of the present. In short, Jesus lives."

--Marcus Borg

Prelude 254

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

Evan O'Donovan

Welcome

Reverend Ed Hoener

Call To Worship:

Jesus, in your presence, with each other, our hearts are touched by your tenderness, and energized by Your grace. Our lives are irreversibly shaped by your peace and power - love and mercy. **In you, O Christ, we can live faithfully, without fainting, because you live.** Jesus, you are the Lord of brand new, resurrected life - as sure as the sunrise. You are the Lord of peace as deep as the sea. You are the Lord of grace, such that everywhere you are present, is blessed. You have called us by name, and on this day that seems too good to be true - we worship you with joy; because You live! **And with your risen life, a new creation has begun!**

***Hymn of Praise #232**

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Preparing For Resurrection

From John 20:1-10, paraphrased

"...While it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb, and saw that the stone was rolled away..."

Meditation

Ministry of Music #244

This Joyful Eastertide

Evan O'Donovan

Praying for Reformation (Unison):

God of light, you are the giver of each new day - the giver of new chances for living in new ways. Come and resurrect us from all that is lifeless. Mend what's broken, in our hearts. Teach us and help us, to understand this faith in which we live. Roll away all grievances, mistakes, and misplaced loyalties. Help us to leave behind everything that buries joy, and charity, and dedication to You. Rise up to be the center of all that we are and do, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Assurance of Grace:

By your grace we are set free, and we find our lives stretched into new creation.

Through your stunning resurrection we are empowered to follow you!

***Response of Praise**

The Story Continues

From John 20:11-18, paraphrased

"Why are you weeping...?"

Meditation

**If you can stand comfortably, please do so.*

Prayer for New Beginnings (Unison):

Jesus, you meet us wherever we are, to call us into deeper faith, deeper discipleship. Draw us out of our limitations, into a new purpose, new energy for being Your people in the world. We give to you our hearts, and we pray for transformation - fresh shoots rising from the soil of our lives - new possibilities bursting from the walls we have built. We pray with great expectation, by the power of your resurrection, Amen.

***Hymn of Response #238**

Thine Is the Glory

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.

Call to Offering

Ministry of Music #220

***Go to Dark Gethsemane* vss. 1-2**

Evan O'Donovan

***Offering Song #710**

We are an Offering

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are Yours, we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to You, we give to You. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an offering, we are an offering.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Sent into the World

"I have seen the Lord."

Meditation

***Hymn of Response #536**

Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen

vss. 2-4

Charge and Blessing

Postlude #240

***Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* vss.1-2**

Evan O'Donovan

*If you can stand comfortably, please do so.

Announcements

Thank you to Sara Pender & Rachel Remelgado for running the projector & camera!

Join our Worship Support Team! For more information; ask the pastor or the technicians or call the church office.

For this very special service, we welcome guest musician, **Olga Tymchenko**, who will be accompanying Evan on violin.

Born in Kyiv, Ukraine, Olga Tymchenko is a violinist trained in the Russian tradition of violin playing.

At age 8, she won her first violin competition for young artists in Kyiv.

She debuted then at age 11 on the National Philharmonic Concert Hall stage as a winner of the Kyiv City Competition.

Ms. Tymchenko first studied violin in the Gliere Music College with Anna Melnyk and then continued at the National University of Culture & Arts in Kyiv. Olga has been touring and performing in Ukraine, Russia, and the US.

As a member of the Manhattan Symphonie Orchestra, she played at David Geffen Hall, Carnegie Hall, Bargemusic, and Merkin Concert Hall and recorded contemporary and film music.

A resident of Nyack, Olga Tymchenko has performed in Rockland and Westchester counties with various chamber groups and as a soloist. Also a devoted violin teacher, Ms. Tymchenko is a faculty member of The Performing Arts Department at Masters in Dobbs Ferry, NY, and the RiverArts.

Olga is thrilled to be a co-founder and performer of the Olla Rhapsody Violin Duo since 2019.

Wheatena Park Cleanup, April 26th from 10 am – 1 pm

For those interested in volunteering, you will meet at the Wheatena Park sign on Elizabeth Ave. & W. Grand. All materials will be supplied by the Union County Parks department. Rain date: Apr. 27th.

Next Town Hall meeting will be on Sunday, April 27th.

Next Manse Fireside Chat @ 7 pm is in April on Friday, the 25th.



Online Donations

PRAYER PERSON OF THE WEEK
Carol DeLuca

PRAYER REQUESTS

Benjamin, Jarod B., Michael, Sara & Joan P., Savannah B., Cameron, Nicole, Allison, Zia L., Mary R., Carole H., Alyne's family, Jane B., Carlos Browne & family, Mary Ann R., Pat & family, Lauris & Cindy, Michele P., Barbara O. & family, Major A. & family, LJ & Corinne, Helen, Logan, Harper, Helene & Diane, Dorothy R., Amy, Avril Muller & family

The First Presbyterian Church of Rahway
1731 Church Street

April 20, 2025
Rev. Ed Hoener
Elder Susan Krivenko
Carol Ann Bregman
Evan O'Donovan

10:30 A.M.
Pastor
Worship Leader
Administrator
Music Director



YouTube



First Presbyterian Church

1731 Church Street
Rahway NJ

Indoor/Outdoor Spring Market
Saturday, May 3rd
9 am — 2 pm

*Have nothing to do on a spring day?
Stop by First Pres., it's time once again for our annual spring sale!*

We've received so many new items over the last several weeks, and have a variety of furniture pieces such as chairs, sofas, dressers, tables, etc.

We also have an amazing jewelry display, household items, electronics, lamps, baby items, and so much more in our downstairs area.

Plus, we will have **FREE** items available at the sale.

All Are Welcome

Parking also available in the back of the church.

*A portion of the proceeds goes toward
local community outreach.*

www.1presrahway.org

