



**May 11, 2025**

*"Common wisdom has it that doubt is the opposite of faith, but what if that's not accurate?*

*What if doubt is simply the warping of the faithful imagination or making conditional statements that limit God's activity within certain prescribed barriers as it was with (doubting ) Thomas? We need reminding that resurrection isn't about us and what we're doing. It's about God and what God is doing. So, be open. Be patient. Cultivate an apostolic imagination and let it carry us somewhere that isn't even on our map."* Ann Carter Florence

**Prelude**

Evan O'Donovan

**Welcome**

Reverend Ed Hoener

**Call To Worship:**

O God of every breath we take; our beginning and end, we give thanks for your passion, and most tender compassion towards us. **You set us free so that we may live new lives of grace and service.** The substance of our lives is in you. You are the loving Mother of deep wisdom. **You restore our hearts. You make us one with your loving will.** You are the one who has promised that all manner of things shall be made well. **This is the high, surpassing, immeasurable love God has for us.** It is God's good will to have us, so we can never stop loving until all is caught up in the fullness of joy. (Paraphrasing a Prayer by Julian of Norwich.)

**\*Hymn of Praise #19**

***God of Great and God of Small \****

**Call to Reconciliation**

**Prayer of Reconciliation :**

O God, your compassion is infinite towards us. We come, offering ourselves as we are, as a gift to you. We know that some of that gift is our brokenness; but we bring it because there is potential there too. Help us to practice being more patient, more hopeful, more forgiving, more loving; because we become what we practice. Amen.

*Silent Prayers*

**Assurance of Grace:**

God's love and kindness helps us to develop "spiritual muscle memory." **With God's help, the more we do God's will – it becomes instinctive.** (From ideas by Krista Tippet.)

**\*Response of Praise #59**

***The Steadfast Love of the Lord (Refrain only) \****

**Sharing the Peace of Christ:**

The resurrection life rises upon the world like the dawn! God guides our feet in the way of peace! Let us share the peace of Christ with each other. The peace of the Lord be with you! **And also with you!**

**Ministry of Music**

Evan O'Donovan

**Scripture Reading**

*Acts 9:36-43*

**Message**

Pastor Ed

**\*Hymn of Faith #332**

***The Right Hand of God \****

**vss. 1-4**

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

## **Celebrating Passion Enterprises**

*Hearing about what God has done in each other's lives is a source of encouragement, and affirms the reality of faith, and prayer and grace. Please come to the lectern and share your testimony so that everyone may see and hear.*

## **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**

### **\*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**

## **Announcements (pg. 4)**

### **\*Hymn of Response #451**

### ***Open My Eyes, That I May See \****

## **Charge and Blessing**

## **Postlude**

Evan O'Donovan

*\*The starred pieces of music were composed, both text and music, by women.*

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

## **Announcements**

**Thank you to Cheryl Anne Cammann & 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.*

### **The Chosen Season 4**

The next two meeting dates are Sunday, May 18th and June 1st. On June 1, be sure to bring your calendars to determine the dates to meet in the fall. - Diane

### **Are there any 2025 Graduates?**

Do you know someone who is graduating in 2025? Whether it be kindergarten, elementary or middle school, high school, tech or college, send the office an email ([office@1stpresrahway.org](mailto:office@1stpresrahway.org)) and let us know what milestone they've achieved. Please include a picture also.



For all of our teachers, whether working or retired, the past week was to honor you and to let you know how much we appreciate and are grateful for all that you do!

**Next Town Hall meeting will be on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.**

**Next Manse Fireside Chat @ 7 pm is Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.**



***Online Donations***

### ***PRAYER PERSON OF THE WEEK***

Jay Beam

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Logan, Linda, Evelyn, Linnea & Roger, Diara, Antoine, Becky, John, Sam, Benjamin, Jarod B., Michael, Sara & Joan P., Mary "Cookie" F., Savannah B., Cameron, Nicole, Allison, Zia L., Mary R., Jane B., Carlos Browne & family, Pat & family, Major A. & family, Helen, Logan, Harper, Helene & Diane, Dorothy R., Amy

## **The First Presbyterian Church of Rahway 1731 Church Street**

May 11, 2025  
Rev. Ed Hoener  
Glory Kalu  
Carol Ann Bregman  
Evan O'Donovan

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