

**A SERVICE OF WORSHIP ON THE LORD'S DAY
WITH THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

September 13, 2020 at 10:00am 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

We Gather Around God's Word

**We invite you to listen quietly during the Prelude and prepare
for the service to begin.**

WELCOME
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Leigh Gillis
Rosemary Schultz

Prelude *"All Things Bright and Beautiful"* by Dale Wood
Robert Grube, Jr., Organist

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 23 Karen Cassidy

Leader: O Lord, you are our Shepherd.

People: We shall not want for what we need.

Leader: You let us rest in green pastures.

People: You lead us beside still waters.

Leader: You restore our souls.

People: You lead us in paths of righteousness.

Leader: Even though we walk through the darkest valleys,

People: We fear no evil because you are with us.

Leader: Your rod and staff comfort us.

People: You prepare a table before us.

Leader: You anoint us with oil; our cups overflow. Surely, goodness
and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives,

**All: And we shall dwell in the house of the Lord our whole lives
long. Let us worship the Lord, our Shepherd!**

CALL TO CONFESSION Karen Cassidy

We know that we have not lived according to God's desires for us. The
brokenness in the world, and the sin and despair in our hearts, threaten
to consume us as a mighty flood. Yet God is our hope and our firm
foundation. Let us confess our sin before our gracious God...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Karen Cassidy

**Creating God, in love you moved over the waters of chaos and
separated sea from dry land. You claim us in the waters of baptism
and declare us dead to sin and alive in Christ. But too often we deny
that call, conforming ourselves to parties of culture at the expense
of our faith. At Pentecost, you released your wild and transforming
spirit to flow through church and world. Transform us by that
Spirit, we pray. Soften the unyielding edges of our hearts. Loosen**

**our grip on "the way it's always been" and prepare us for the joy of
"the way it still can be," looking to the future through the eyes of
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Leigh Gillis

We Give Glory to God

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.*

We Proclaim God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Karen Cassidy

**Open our hearts and minds, O God, by your Spirit, that we may
hear with refreshed hearts and renewed minds your Word
prepared for us this day. Through Christ, the Living Word, we
pray. Amen.**

Epistle Lesson Romans 14:7-12

Karen Cassidy

Gospel Lesson Luke 3:15-22

Rev. Leigh Gillis

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "MAKING BAPTISMAL VOWS"

Rev. Leigh Gillis

We Respond to God's Word

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Leigh Gillis, Tina Hechevarria
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Special Music

Lynn Pinto, Soloist

Sealing in the Word

BAPTISM Rev. Leigh Gillis

Words of Introduction

Presentation

Elder Jim Weisgerber

Baptismal Questions for the Parents and Congregation

The Apostles' Creed - I believe in God the Father

**Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ
his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy
Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified dead, and buried; he descended into**

hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

Sacrament of Baptism

We Worship With Our Offerings

Call For Offering

Rev. Leigh Gillis

Offertory

Lynn Pinto, Soloist

**Doxology*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, Ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen*

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Leigh Gillis

Benediction

Rev. Leigh Gillis

Postlude

*"When Morning Gilds the Skies" by Dale Wood
Robert Grube, Jr.*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Streaming after the service: Daniel Velez - Children's Message

The Ministers of the First Presbyterian Church, Cranford NJ:

The Entire Congregation of FPCC

Pastor – Rev. Leigh B. Gillis

Director of Children, Youth and Families - Daniel Velez-Acevedo

Assistant Music Director– Elsa G. Hahn

Organist – Robert Grube, Jr.

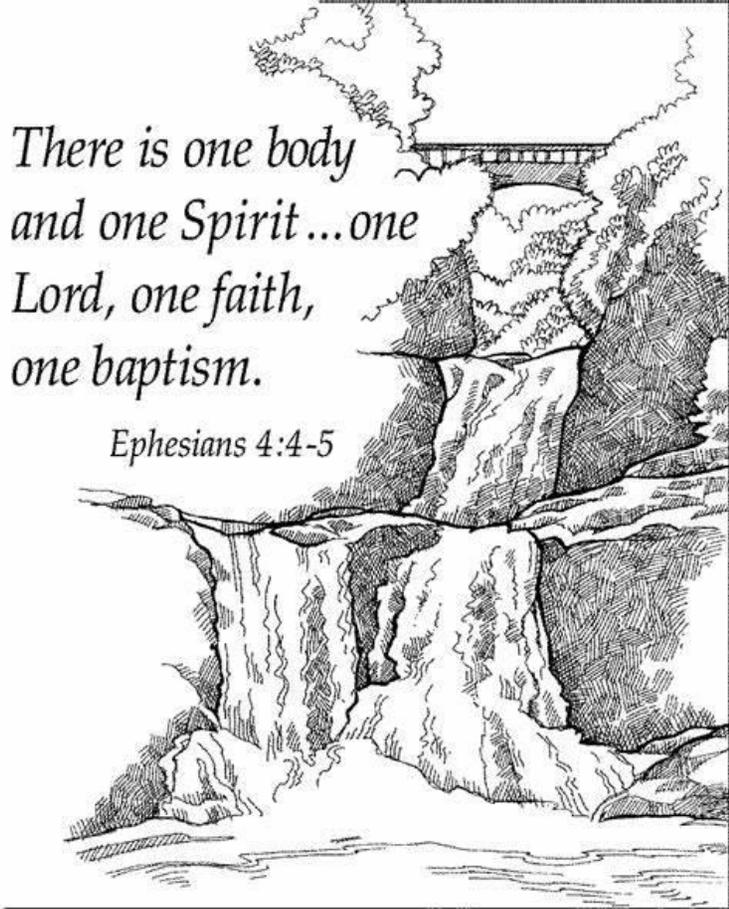
Office Administrator – Carol Thee

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CRANFORD

11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey 07016

Phone (908) 276-8440

www.firstprescranford.org



*There is one body
and one Spirit ... one
Lord, one faith,
one baptism.*

Ephesians 4:4-5

Mission Statement

*As the body of Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we seek to live God's Word and inspire others to
embrace Jesus' commandment to love one another as
the Lord loves us.*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey 07016

Phone (908)276-8440

E-mail Office@firstprescranford.org

www.firstprescranford.org

PASTORAL CARE – For Pastoral Care needs and concerns, contact President of Deacons, Amy Aaroe at 908-403-5321. Amy will contact the pastor for you. Pastor Leigh Gillis can be reached at 908-432-3959 pastorleigh@firstprescranford.org.

JOIN US! FPCC has begun a weekly service of morning prayer on Tuesday mornings. You are welcome to gather for "Morningsong". The Morningsong prayer service in the chapel will be at **8:30 a.m.** Thanks to all who responded to the poll. Masks are required.

UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES - The next Vespers service in the chapel will be September 15 at 6:30 p.m. Masks are required.

FLOWERS – Thank you for your continued donations of flowers for Sunday worship. If you would like to donate flowers in October, contact Judy Bobucky at 908-272-3643 or jbobucky@verizon.net. The cost is \$50 which can be mailed to the church directly. Please be sure to note that the money is for flowers.

TODAY'S FLOWERS are donated in celebration of the Baptism. With love from parents and grandparents.

BIBLE EXPLORERS - Zoom meetings begin TODAY after worship and will be held on Sunday mornings at 11am. Please contact Mark Oricchio to register at moricchio@verizon.net.

GRIEF SEMINAR begins next Sunday. Contact Patti Williams to register at 908-709-1341.

PASTORAL THOUGHTS - We continue to find ourselves "stuck in Covid-19 time." Social anxiety has only continued to grow. They are even talking about those born in the last year or so and into the early 2020s as "The Covid Generation." This is a time which will have lasting impact on us all much as 9/11 or, for us Boomers, the Kennedy assassination.

Sunday Worship Action Team

Pastor Leigh

Organist - Bob Grube

Videographers - Laura Simone,

Kris and Colin Farley,

Sarah Cassidy

Sound - Terry Schultz,

Rob Berns, Janice Grevious

Worship Elder - Rosemary

Schultz,

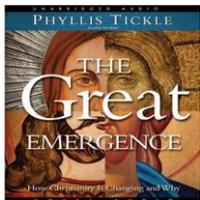
Tina Hechevarria, assistant

In addition, we all have health concerns for ourselves and loved ones, as well as the world. There is worry about money, some very justified, some because peoples' ideas of "enough" vary and those with much are scared of having less.

Scripture is very clear on the call to followers of Christ in response to the upheaval which is going on now in our society. To be faithful people of integrity, we must put aside our own heritage, our own feelings, our comfort, our pride in what our families historically did or did not do and do what Jesus calls us to do.

I will probably read this in worship because I want you to hear it, and everyone does not download or read the weekly bulletin. You/we at FPCC are only "church" because of Jesus Christ. There is no other reason for this entity to be. THAT is/should be our primary focus. We are called to live our faith even more visibly now, not to retreat into selfish, insular, preservationist habits springing from fear. Be more visible in your love and care and expressions of understanding of the plights of others. Opportunities to share the gospel, the good news which we claim to believe, are more prevalent now than ever.

Ponder this: Jesus completely emptied himself for you and all of us. Can we not be expected to do the same?



NEW BOOK STUDY - Pastor Leigh will begin a Zoom book/Bible study on Phyllis Tickle's The Great Emergence on Monday, Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. This will run 8 weeks, through Nov. 16.

Participants will receive a syllabus with the scriptures and pages to be read for each meeting. If you think you will be able to join in, please go ahead and order your book, new, used, audio or kindle, to give it time to arrive.

There is a chance that meetings may be changed to in person, but that is not yet certain. If you do not have a computer, you can participate by phone. I hope you will join us for this look at how the church has changed through the centuries, and how it has remained the same!

THE PRESBYTERIES OF NEW JERSEY have concluded their consultation with one another on New Jersey Missional Communities and what "new presbytery boundaries" might look like. The plan will be voted on at the October meeting. You may read the report at <http://elizabethpresbytery.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/NJMC-Document-For-Presbytery-Approval-2020-09-03.pdf>

Prayers of the Church Family

Pray for those in the FPCC Family facing health challenges and the loss of family members.

Pray for loved ones and friends of the FPCC Family.

Prayers for those who feel forgotten or unloved, for those feeling overwhelmed. Prayers for healthcare and essential workers. We pray for people seeking asylum. We pray that as a nation, we respond to all people in need in a way that Christ would affirm. We pray for the youth of FPCC and the adults who are in their lives. We pray for those serving in the military, for married couples facing turmoil, those in leadership of our nation, and for peace in our country and the world.

Emergency and immediate prayer support is available for friends and family of the Church! To add someone, contact Linda Thorn at lindathorn427@gmail.com, or at 908 358 8127.

*Our Prayers of Condolence for
all who have lost a loved one.*