

ASSEMBLING IN GOD'S NAME AND LIFTING OUR VOICES

As you gather, take time quietly to sit and prepare your heart to worship God

Prelude "Fantasia in C" JS Bach
(Notes about today's music can be found in the bulletin at the end of the worship section)

Welcome, Announcements

Psalm 22:23-31 (OT Page 501)

*Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: From generation to generation, God names us and claims us.
People: **Let heaven and earth praise God's holy name.**
Leader: From our earliest steps, Christ guides our wayward feet.
People: **Let all who draw breath come back to the Lord.**
Leader: From death to life, the Spirit sets us free.
People: **Let the faithful rejoice in God's holy covenant.**
Leader: From generation to generation, God names us and claims us.
People: **Let heaven and earth praise God's holy name.**

*Hymn #630 "Fairest Lord Jesus"

*Prayer of Adoration

CONFESSING AND RESPONDING TO FORGIVENESS

Call to Confession & Unison Prayer of Confession

God of our ancestors in the faith, we are a people who have known the hurt of broken promises, and have spoken words we could not keep. We are quick to condemn those who make wrong choices, but want only gentle criticism directed our way. We let our lives be guided so much by our past, rather than opening our eyes, our hearts, our hopes to your amazing future. Forgive our distrust of the vows you have made to us, God of Sarah. Forgive our disbelief that you can bring hope to those places where we see only despair, God of Abraham. Forgive our hesitancy in denying all that keeps us from committing ourselves completely to you, God of Peter. Forgive us, so we may take up the life you offer to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

-Silent Personal Prayer-

Assurance of Pardon:

Pastor: Listen carefully, dear friends. God does not reject us. God redeems us. God does not back out of relationship created so long ago, God restores it to its original purpose. God does not hold back, but pours abundant forgiveness into our lives.

People: **Forgiven, we can follow; filled with hope, we can empty ourselves for others; restored to new life, we can live in relationship with God, with our neighbors and enemies, with ourselves. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*Passing the Peace

*Gloria #582

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen. **World without end, without end. Amen. (x3)** As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Time with Children

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament **Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16** (OT Pg 13)

Gospel **Mark 8:31-38** (NT Pg 44)

Sermon "What's in a Name" Pastor Scot

RESPONDING TO GOD WITH THANKSGIVING

*Hymn 726 "Will You Come and Follow Me?"

*Affirmation of Faith - adapted from the Confession of 1967 (9.21)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory "May the Words of My Mouth"

Sanctuary Choir

May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart

Be pleasing unto You, O God.

May the works of my hands and the path that I walk

Be pleasing unto You, O God.

For You are my Redeemer, the Rock of my salvation.

I long to bring You honor in all I say and do.

For You are my Creator, my Shepherd and my Guide

I long to be Your helper and follow by Your side.

*Doxology #606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication

Pastoral Prayer and 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

*Hymn #853 "We Are Marching in the Light of God"

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Benediction

Postlude "Psalm XVIII" Benedetto Marcello

(Many people at Hilltop prefer to be seated to listen to the Postlude.

If leaving, please do so quietly. Thank you.)

*(Indicates the Congregation will please stand as you are able.)

ABOUT THE MUSIC IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Bach's 'Fantasia in C' BWV 570 is one of his shorter compositions for the organ, is an early work, probably composed sometime during the composer's tenure as organist in the city of Arnstadt (1703 - 1706) or perhaps during his one year at Mühlhausen (1707). It is one of the few of Bach organ fantasias/organ preludes that do not belong to larger, two-part prelude-fugue or fantasia-fugue combinations; it was only with his move to Weimar, in 1708, that Bach really began to fancy such compound prelude-fugue works, though he did compose a few famous examples of them before the Weimar days (including the Toccata and Fugue in D minor, BWV 565).

Born in Venice, Marcello was a contemporary of Vivaldi. He was born into a patrician family; his father wanted him to become a lawyer. Marcello managed to combine his love of music and also serve his city, taking posts on the city council. His works include instrumental settings of the Psalms – in this case, Psalm 18:Vs. 6 In my distress I called to the LORD; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT HILLTOP CHURCH!

We are blessed by your presence with us! Whether today is your first time worshipping at Hilltop or you've been a member for decades, we are glad you are here and pray that the living God will touch your life as you worship with us this morning. +++ **We love having children in worship.** We provide **Noah's Ark Nursery** (with attendants) for children 4 and under but, of course, they are always welcome in worship. Please don't be overly concerned about bothering others. If you do feel you need to take your child out of the sanctuary during the service, we hope you'll return when you feel the time is right. +++ Out of respect for those worshipping near you **please take a moment to turn off cell phones.**

For additional information please use this QR code to learn more.

ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR A NEW CHURCH HOME?

We invite you to learn more about the mission and ministry of Hilltop. We are always looking for new ways to embody Jesus' call to love God and our neighbors in this community and throughout the world. We have a heart for mission and we believe in including children and families in everything we do. We'd love for you to be part of our future, continuing Jesus Christ's earthly ministry of building God's Kingdom.

While you're here, please:

- **Fill out** a visitor card and drop it in the offering plate to let us know you were here and to request a call or visit from the pastor.
- **Pick up a copy of the Spire** (our church newsletter).
- **Speak with the pastor** and help us get to know you.

Annual Meeting of First Presbyterian Church of Mendham

The Session hereby calls for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation **today** immediately following Worship Service.

Inquirer's Class Next Sunday

Christian Fellowship is a key aspect of church life. Believers in Christ come together in love, faith, and encouragement. If you are searching for a new church home, we invite you to learn more about the mission and ministry of Hilltop. **Sunday, March 3rd immediately after worship in Hilltop House.**

SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Greeting you at the front door is Lisa Lieb.

Our Reader is Clay Gladhill.

Our Usher Coordinator is David Kerr.

Operating our Video System is Bob Willis.

Operating our Sound System is Greg Smith.

PRAYING TOGETHER AT HILLTOP:

If you wish to speak to the Pastor Reverend Scot McCahren you can email him at rev.scot.mcc@gmail.com. For pastoral needs after hours please call (201)400-1834.

Area of Ministry: Deacons

Nt'l Mission: Souper Bowl of Caring

Local Mission: Market Street Mission

Int'l Mission: World Vision



COMING UP AT HILLTOP...

NourishNJ Kitchen Training

Zoom Meeting - March 1, 9-9:30am. If you wish to volunteer at Nourish Facility, you need this class. Would love to have you. Please contact: Cathy Malman cimalman12@gmail.com if interested or for more information.

Christian Education, Nurture and Development for Adults at Hilltop Church

Women's Bible Study Group - Thursday mornings in the Hilltop House Library from 9:45-11:30 am

Men's Bible Study Group - Saturday mornings in the Hilltop House Library from 8:30-10:00 am

Adult Education - Sundays immediately after Church in the Hilltop House parlor and tries to wrap up its meetings by around 12:30. On the final Sunday of each month there's no formal meeting and, instead, we typically meet at the Blackhorse Pub for fellowship and brunch. We hope you'll join us.

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing is a special offering during Lent in which Presbyterians can share God's love with neighbors in need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry and support for the poor and oppressed. The three programs supported are Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.

Through our collective gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in over 100 countries. Please consider making a contribution to One Great Hour of Sharing by Palm Sunday (March 24). There are special offering envelopes in the church pews or indicate your donation is for OGHS. There is an option online through BREEZE. Thank you.

THIS WEEK AT HILLTOP

Monday, February 26th

7:00 p.m. Oratorio Choir in Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class

Tuesday, February 27th

7:00 p.m. Deacons

Wednesday, February 28th

12:00 p.m. Lenten Lunch at Grace Lutheran Church

Thursday, February 29th

9:45 a.m. Women's Bible Study

6:45 p.m. Bell Choir

7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Friday, March 1st The Church Office is Closed on Fridays

8:30 p.m. AA in the Steelman Room

Saturday, March 2nd

8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study

Sunday, March 3rd

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Adult Education and Fellowship at Hilltop House



FEBRUARY 25TH, 2024

The Second Sunday of Lent

Welcome to Hilltop Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Mendham, New Jersey

"Proclaiming Christ's Presence and Continuing Christ's Work since 1738"

NEXT SUNDAY:

March 3rd, 2024

Pastor Scot to Preach

To worship with us online at 10 am (or anytime after) please visit the homepage of our website for the link and bulletin:

https://www.hilltopchurch.org/t_homepage.asp

Mendham Lenten Lunches

February 14 - Brookside Community Church UCC
February 21 - TBD
February 28 - Hilltop Presbyterian
March 6 - St. Mark's Episcopal Church
March 13 - Mendham United Methodist Church
March 20 - TBD

Wednesdays
Worship at 12pm
Lunch at 12:30

Held at Grace Lutheran Church 65 E Main St, Mendham

Sunday, February 25, 2024
3:30 - 6:00pm

Taylor Swift Edition

Live Music from All 10 Eras
Friendship Bracelets & Photo Booth
Concession Stand

3:30 Bracelets and Photos
4:00 Music
Hilltop House
14 Hilltop Road
Mendham, NJ

Featuring Megan Pepper

Suggested Donation \$20 to support Appalachia Service Project
Let us know you are coming! help@hilltopchurch.org

James & John Boanerges (Sons of Thunder)
Saul Paulos Abraham
Solomon Jedediah
What's in a Name?
I AM God God Almighty
Simon Cephas (Rock) Peter
Jacob Sarah Sarah

nourish.NJ food lives. fuel futures

Hilltop Church First Presbyterian • Mendham, NJ

Table of HOPE

Plenty to Share

February 18 - March 10, 2024

During this Lenten season, please consider sharing some non-perishable goods with our mission partners. Drop off bins are located at Hilltop Church and Hilltop House

To make a credit card donation, click on the QR code and select "Give to pLENTY to Share" from the dropdown menu or go to www.hilltopchurch.org/mission-partners

Interfaith Food Pantry Network

Shampoo, Conditioner
Toothpaste, Toothbrush

Family Promise of Morris County

Soap, Body Wash
Paper Towels, Toilet Paper
Garbage bags
Dish Soap, Cleaning supplies

Full size foil pans
Disposable forks and knives
1-3 compartment to go containers

Homeless Solutions

Laundry Pods
Coffee - instant and ground
Bed pillows (only new)
Twin blankets - no throws

SERVING CHRIST AND YOU AT HILLTOP

Reverend Scot McCachren - Pastor/ Head of Staff
James Wynne - Director of Music Ministries
Tori Legacki- Director of Hilltop Christian Nursery School
Bill Lowe- Clerk of Session Brian Elliott - Treasurer
Dane Manchester - Assistant Treasurer
Amy Beal & Marilyn Willett - Moderators of the Board of Deacons
Lissa Anderson- Stephen Leader
Bob Willis - Organ Curator & Video Greg Smith - Audio
Danielle Doyle - Office Manager
John Andrews - Facilities Manager Brendan Doyle - Facilities Assistant
Office: 14 Hilltop Road. Sanctuary: 20 Hilltop Road
Mendham, NJ 07945
(973) 543-4012 hilltopchurch.org office@hilltopchurch.org

MINISTERS

All the Members of Hilltop Church

OUR MISSION

The purpose of the First Presbyterian Church, Mendham, NJ is to acknowledge and proclaim the presence and power of God and to continue the work of Jesus Christ by loving God, God's world, each other and ourselves. We are committed to the growth of faith, the spreading of the good news, and the mission of caring for those near and far. We fulfill these commitments through prayers, study, sharing, teaching and serving.