# 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** "Though I May Speak" Dale Wood (Notes about today's music can be found in the bulletin at the end of the worship section)

#### Welcome, Announcements

**Psalm 133:1-3** (OT Page 575)

#### \*Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! We have not seen the risen Christ,

People: But we see him in the lives of those transformed

by grace.

Leader: We have not seen Jesus face-to-face,

People: Be we have seen him in the faces of everyone

whose love encourages us.

Leader: We have not touched the wounds from the cross,

People: But we have been called to bring healing to the

scarred of the world.

\*Hymn #254 "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"

## \*Prayer of Adoration

# CONFESSING AND RESPONDING TO FORGIVENESS

# Call to Confession & Unison Prayer of Confession

We lock the doors of compassion, God of Easter, so that we may share it only with those we believe to be deserving. We harden our hearts to the cries around us because we cannot be completely sure of who is in need. We close our eyes to the suffering around us, believing it will all go away if we don't look. Forgive us, Hope of the Ages. You fill us with all the grace we need, not because we are so special, but because we are servants, called to hold out our hands to all in need, even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, holds out his hands to us, to lead us into your kingdom. Amen.

-Silent Personal Prayer-

#### **Assurance of Pardon:**

Leader: From the shadows of life, God brings us into the Light of

Christ. From the prison of sin and death, God sets us free to

live in hope.

People: The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has

raised him from the dead, and given us new life.

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** 

 New Testament
 Acts 4:32-35
 (NT Pg | 22)

 Gospel
 John 20:19-31
 (NT Pg | 15)

 Sermon
 Beth Smith

# "The Story of Doubting Thomas - A Parable of Grace"

# RESPONDING TO GOD WITH THANKSGIVING

\*Hymn 286

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

\*Affirmation of Faith - adapted from The Confession of 1967 (9.07) In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to God's self. We confess that Jesus Christ is God with us. He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the foundation of all we confess about God, humanity, and the world. Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another. Amen.

#### Invitation to the Offering

#### Offertory

# \*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 #268 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

# GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

#### \*Benediction

Postlude

"Toccata in E Minor"

Johann Pachelbel

(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

"Though I May Speak" is based on the famous text from 2nd Corinthians, but is set to the famous folktune, "O Waly, Waly," often known as 'The Water Is Wide.' Dale Wood was a renowned composer, organist, and choral director best known for his church music compositions. He was born on February 13, 1934, in Glendale, California, and died April 13, 2003.

Cesar Franck (1822 - 1890) was the composer, organist, and pedagogue of Belgian and German descent who lived in France. He is considered as one of the most influential figures of the late Romantic period in the second half of the 19th century. In 1858, he became the organist of the famous Basilica of Saint Clotilde where he worked until his death. As an organist, Franck was mostly appreciated because of his notorious improvisational talent. Although he wrote only 12 major organ works, Franck is considered by many as the most important organ composer after J.S.Bach. His compositions laid the foundation of the French symphonic organ style. Among his organ compositions perhaps the most influential was Grande Piece Symphonique, which paved the way to the organ symphonies of Charles-Marie Widor, Louis Vierne, and Marcel Dupré.

# 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.

## SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Greeting you at the front door is Bill Maurer.
Our Reader is Deb Buchanan.
Our Usher Coordinator is David Kerr.
Operating our Video System is Bob Willis.
Operating our Sound System is Greg Smith.

The Flowers on the Table are given to the Glory of God by Fiona Stewart.

#### PRAYING TOGETHER AT HILLTOP:

If you wish to speak to the Pastor Reverend Scot McCachren you can email him at <a href="mailto:rev.scot.mcc@gmail.com">rev.scot.mcc@gmail.com</a>. For pastoral needs after hours please call (201)400-1834.

Area of Ministry: Worship & Music National Mission: ActNow

Local Mission: Homeless Solutions Int'l Mission: Farmers Worldwide

# COMING UP AT HILLTOP...

# 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.

# **Attention all High School Seniors!**

Each year the church has the opportunity to award the Fischer Scholarship to graduating Hilltop Seniors. Monies for the scholarships come from the generous endowment of Herb and Wilma Fischer. Applications are considered from students who have shown outstanding service to Hilltop Church. The application will be available on March 17th and completed applications are due on April 14, 2024. The Scholarship will be awarded on May 5, 2024. Please contact Wendy Whiting via email at wawhiting 27@gmail.com to receive your copy of the application.

#### Music on the Hill

The final Music on the Hill of the school year will be held on Saturday, April 13, at 7:00PM. This event supports our youth travelling with ACTNow! for the Appalachia Service Project. It is a primary fundraiser for the trip, and we encourage all Hilltop members to support our team. If you cannot attend but would like to donate, please send a check to the church office with ASP in the memo line. You can also donate via Breeze and make a notation to direct your donation.



## THIS WEEK AT HILLTOP

Monday, April 8th

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

7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class

Tuesday, April 9th

4:00 p.m. Personnel 7:00 p.m. Membership

Wednesday, April 10th

11:00 a.m. Lunch with Friends 6:30 p.m. Stewardship & Finance

Thursday, April 11th

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

6:45 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Friday, April 12th The Church Office is Closed on Fridays

AA in the Steelman Room

8:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 13th

8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Music on the Hill

Sunday, April 14th

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

II:15 a.m. Adu

Adult Education and Fellowship at Hilltop House

Hilltop Church

#### **NEXT SUNDAY:**

April 14th, 2024 - Communion Sunday 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

# 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 & Lisa Oberai- Moderators of the Board of Deacons 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, NI 07945

(973) 543-4012 <u>hilltopchurch.org</u> office@hilltopchurch.org

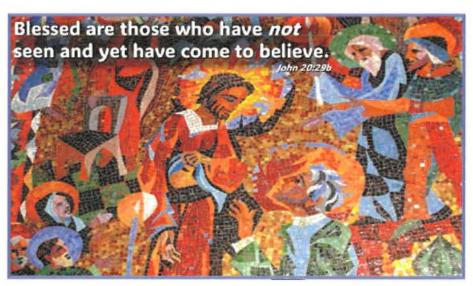
# APRIL 7TH. 2024

The Second Sunday of Easter

# Welcome to Hilltop Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Mendham, New Jersey

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



"Jesus Shows Himself to Thomas" a mosaic by Rowan and Irene LeCompte, in the Resurrection Chapel at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C

# 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.