

**THE WYOMING  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



"All are welcome  
in this place."

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER  
ASCENSION OF THE LORD  
MAY 12, 2024**



*Worshiping God and Serving the Community  
Since 1873*

***THE WYOMING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH***  
***SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY***  
***7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER***  
***ASCENSION OF THE LORD***  
***MAY 12, 2024***  
***10:00 A.M.***

**PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

“The hardest spiritual work in the world is to love the neighbor as the self - to encounter another human being not as someone you can use, change, fix, help, save, enroll, convince or control, but simply as someone who can spring you from the prison of yourself, if you will allow it.”

–Barbara Brown Taylor

PRELUDE

“Heavenly Vision”

Paul Taylor

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

"O Day of Peace"

Jerusalem

*Oh day of peace that dimly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
guide us to justice, truth and love, delivered from our selfish schemes.*

*May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from envy find release,  
till by God's grace our warring world shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.*

*Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce devour the small;  
as beasts and cattle calmly graze, a little Child shall lead them all.*

*Then enemies shall learn to love, all creatures find their true accord;  
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.*

**GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Let Us Build a House (G2G #301)*

One: Let us build a house where love can dwell,

**All: where all can safely live and peace and justice meet.**

One: Let us build a house that is built of hopes and dreams,

**All: where the cross shall stand as a symbol of God's grace.**

One: Let us build a house for the outcast and stranger,

**All: where they bear the image of God's face. All are welcome in this place!**

**Let us now worship God!**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**\*OPENING HYMN, PH #155**

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

John Darwall

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Creator God, home is where we feel most comfortable, where we bond with our family, where we unwind at the end of a long day. Home is where we feel close to you, O Lord. We know that wood and stone can build strong houses, yet we use these to build barriers between our church and our neighbors. We keep our homes private, instead of opening them up to all of your children.**

**Merciful God, forgive us for failing to welcome the stranger, the outcast, the marginalized. Enable us to open our hearts and minds to everyone. Prepare us to always have a seat at the table for anyone who needs your love and care, never turning away a visitor or friend, living into the meaning of a being a welcoming and inclusive church. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**One:** The peace of Christ be with you.

**All:** **And also with you.**

**\*EASTER ALLELUIA, PH #108**

*Christ is alive and comes to bring, Good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring.  
With joy, with justice, love, and praise.*

## *WE HEAR GOD'S WORD*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING	Acts 1:1–11	p. 118
SECOND READING	Luke 14:15–24	p. 77
SERMON	“All Are Welcome”	Rev. Heather Brannon

## *WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD*

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (1983)

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. Amen.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

*(Moment of Silent Prayer)*

### 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.**

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*You may also participate in the offering by using our online offering plate at [wyomingpresbyterian.org/giving](http://wyomingpresbyterian.org/giving) or by mailing your gift to the church at 432 Wyoming Ave., Millburn, NJ 07041.*

OFFERTORY

"Hallelujah"

Leonard Cohen

*Now I've heard there was a secret chord that David played, and it pleased the Lord;  
but you don't really care for music, do ya?  
It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth, the minor fall, the major lift,  
the baffled king composing Hallelujah!  
You say I took the name in vain, I don't even know the name;  
but if I did, well, really, what's it to you?  
There's a blaze of light in every word; It doesn't matter which you heard,  
the holy or the broken Hallelujah!  
I did my best, it wasn't much; I couldn't feel, so I tried to touch,  
I've told the truth, I didn't come to fool ya.  
and even though it all went wrong,  
I'll stand before the Lord of Song with nothing on my tongue but Hallelujah!*

INCLUSIVE DOXOLOGY, PH #591

Old Hundredth

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**SENDING**

\*CLOSING HYMN, G2G #301

"All Are Welcome" vs. 1-3 (See Insert)

Marty Haugen

\*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL AMEN, PH #587

Spiritual

\*POSTLUDE

"Psalm 19"

Benedetto Marcello

**You are now entering the mission field. May the peace of Christ be with you.**

\*You are invited to rise in body or in spirit.

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**LITURGY:** The Call to Worship was adapted from the hymn, “Let Us Build a House: All Are Welcome” from the new Presbyterian hymnal, *Glory to God* (2013).

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** In 1983, The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) prepared *A Brief Statement of Faith* in response to the reunion of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America and the Presbyterian Church in the United States. This statement sought to articulate a Presbyterian common identity amongst our diverse membership.

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**THE WYOMING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**432 WYOMING AVENUE | MILLBURN, NJ 07041**

**(973) 376-3066 | [www.wyomingpresbyterian.org](http://www.wyomingpresbyterian.org)**

**Pastor & Head of Staff:** The Rev. Heather Brannon

**Music Director:** Steven Shellman | **Children’s Choir Director:** Ebony Wiggins

**Director of Family Ministries:** Tracy Policastro

**Church Administrator:** Marilyn Gonzalez | **Sexton:** Erick Dolansky

**Director of Open Door Nursery School:** Alethea Randazza