

March 17, 2024 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Slackwood Presbyterian Church
2020 Brunswick Avenue, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

GATHER TO WORSHIP

*As a consideration to all who seek to worship this morning, please
turn off or mute cell phones and other electronic devices.*

Bell of Invitation
Welcome & Announcements

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

Call to Worship

Leader: This is the day God has promised: the day of the
new covenant.

**People: We are here, because our hearts are filled with
love for God.**

Leader: No longer carved on cold stone, this covenant is
written on our hearts.

People: We open our hearts so God's Word can shape us.

Leader: God's love invites us to be welcoming and inclusive.

**People: Our hearts are ready to serve God and all of
God's people.**

*Hymn #301 "Let Us Build a House" TWO OAKS

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

**Living Christ, with whom we journey to the cross, we
confess that we are always looking for an easier way. We
long for the fullness of life with you, but we are slow to
abandon the comforts of the life we know. We seek the
fruit of new life, but we are not willing to die to ourselves.
You call us to life in community, but we stubbornly cling to
"me and mine." Yet you offer the grace of life abundant,
even and especially when our best efforts fall short.
Transform us, renew us, and free us from our attachment**

**to what was, so that you might bring us into the glory of
what will be. (Moment of silent prayer). Amen**

*Words of Assurance

*Gloria Patri (#581)

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.

*(Following the time of confession, young people ages 3 to 10
may leave for a time of lesson and activity.)*

HEARING OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading – Psalm 51

The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem "Ubi Caritas" Victor C. Johnson

Where there is charity and love, God is there.

The love of Christ has gathered us together,

let us rejoice and be glad in it, and from a sincere heart,

let us love one another.

Second Scripture Reading – Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Written on Our Hearts" Rev. David Bowman

*Hymn #53 "O God, Who Gives Us Life" NOEL

Reception of New Members

Presentation of New Members

Amanda and Eric Johansen, Deborah and Andy Pratt,

Sydney Ryon

Profession of Faith

*Affirmation of Faith – *"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 living 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.

Question to New Members

Pastor: We have professed our faith as one body. Will you be faithful members of this congregation, sharing in its worship and mission through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?
New Members: I will, with God's help.

Blessing of New Members

Words of Welcome

All: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

*Hymn #306 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" DENNIS

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

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 for 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

*Hymn #692

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

"Spirit, Open My Heart"

*Charge and Benediction

DEPART TO SERVE

**Those who are able may stand.*

Christ's Ministers in the World: All members of the church

Interim Pastor: The Rev. David Bowman

Director of Music: Dr. Shelley Sanders Zuckerman

Director of Family Ministries: Starr Alleyne

Liturgist: Starr Alleyne

Announcements

The Peace Candle in the Chancel is lit to remind us of the gift of Christ's peace and our call to be peacemakers.

Welcome to all who are worshiping this morning. If you are visiting, we hope you feel very welcome and that you will stay following the service for refreshments and conversation.

Pastor Bowman's contact information:

Email: dfbsbv@gmail.com or Telephone: 732.547.3480

The **Adult Forum** meets weekly at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. The link is sent in the Saturday announcements email.

The **confirmation class** meets this morning at 9:00 a.m.

The **choir** rehearses at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

The **Board of Deacons** will meet following worship this morning.

The **Session** will meet on Wednesday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m.

The **Lenten Study Group** will meet via Zoom on Thursday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m. The link is in the weekly announcements email.

The **spring outdoor clean-up day** will be on Saturday, March 23. Come out for an hour or two or the whole morning – whatever time you can spare – and help get the church grounds ready for spring and summer. Rain date will be March 30.

The **community Easter egg hunt** will be on Saturday, March 23 at 4:00 p.m. (Rain date is March 30.)

Looking Ahead – This year's Maundy Thursday service of worship will be held on March 28 and will be a joint service with other Presbyterian congregations in Lawrence Township. Held at the Lawrence Road Church at 7:30 p.m. there will be a joint choir, and preceding the service there will be a dinner of soup and bread. Slackwood needs people to provide soup and/or bread. There is a sign-up sheet in fellowship hall if you can provide either item.

The Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville will hold a **Good Friday** service at 12:15 p.m. on March 29 in their sanctuary.

Easter Sunday at Slackwood will include an early morning service of worship in the garden at 8:30 a.m. A continental breakfast will begin in fellowship hall at 9:00 a.m. and the 10:30 a.m. service of worship will be in the sanctuary and online.

Save the Date: Saturday, April 20 – 11:00 a.m. Celebration of the life of Todd Mansmann – Slackwood Church sanctuary.

The Membership & Outreach Committee is seeking donations of baby diapers and wipes to support **Homefront's Diaper Challenge**. You can bring your contributions to the church anytime up to May 12. Honor your mother this year on Mother's Day, by donating to Homefront so that all babies in the community can have clean diapers.

The **Christian Education Committee** extends an invitation to all to spend time with the church's youngest disciples during worship in the upcoming spring and summer months. The commitment would be one or two Sundays. There are wonderful volunteers who are already sharing the schedule, but the committee wants to make sure to involve others who would like to do fun activities, lead a bible craft, teach a bible story, sing worship songs, and assist with prayer. Speak with Mark Thomas or Starr Alleyne.

Those people remembered in the prayers of the people last week are: Laura, Sharon, Sam, Jon, Mike, Tina, Jack, Doug, Jamie, Slackwood Youth, Robin, Karla, Aaron, Rick, Carrie, Mary, Bill & Terrie, Ben, Mike, Jon, Samantha, Amanda, Patty, the marginalized, unemployed and underemployed, end to senseless violence, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, those impacted by nature, Colette and Valentino family, Abby & family, Stacy, injured Hamilton police officer, Jill, Ebbie, Laura, Nona, Cindy, Audrey, Cory, Joann, Bill, Corinne & family, Rafael & Jess, Brittany, Kelly, Qiana, Marilyn, Mylan, Fran & Troy, Beth, Nancy, Samantha, Mike, Brittany, Jon, Sharon, Jack, Karen, Nancy, Jim, Jaq, Kim, Joan & Dennis, Elaine, Sean, and Jan.