

# United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 17, 2024

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

*\*Please give all prayer slips to the Reverend before the service begins\**

### PRELUDE

“Ah, Holy Jesus” *arr. D. Cherwien*

### RINGING OF THE BELLS

Jim Dixon

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim Dixon

#### \*PNC UPDATE\*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Jim Dixon

L: The journey of Lent continues with a journey of sacrifice.

**P: We are called upon to give our lives to God.**

L: We are called upon to give of ourselves to others.

**P: Lord, help us to reach inward in confession and outward in service.**

L: Be with us this day and walk with us on this journey.

### \*HYMN

“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

GTG #353

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Jim Dixon

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jim Dixon

**Compassionate God, forgive us when we falter on this Lenten pathway; when the road ahead seems too uncertain and we are afraid. We admit that following Jesus is not an easy task. Jesus requires us to be willing to make the ultimate commitment of our whole lives and we hesitate and hold back. Draw us back to you, O God. Give us confidence and courage to face the future with hope. Let us place our trust in you that the message of peace and mercy you have given to us through Jesus Christ may be offered to others through our own witness to your healing mercy**

### SILENT PRAYER

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Jim Dixon

**L:** By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing: it is the gift of God, not the result of works, so that no one might boast.

**P:** For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

**L:** Believe the promise of the gospel:

**P:** In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

## **TIME WITH CHILDREN**

Megan Gadsby

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

*C. Mueller*

Soloist Dora Schnur, accompanied by Bill Beitmann, pianist

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Adebisi A. Shofu

## **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Adebisi A. Shofu

## **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

Hebrews 5:5-10

Adebisi A. Shofu

## **SERMON**

“Bridge Builder”

Adebisi A. Shofu

## **\*HYMN**

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

GTG #267

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Adebisi A. Shofu

## **OFFERTORY**

Jim Dixon

## **\*PRAYER TO DEDICATE OUR GIFTS**

Jim Dixon

**God of grace, we know you want justice rolling down like water.**

**Accept these gifts from our hands,**

**which we cast upon the waters of your love,**

**a generous ever-flowing stream feeding the hungry and helping those in need. Accept these gifts for the work of your church. Amen.**

## **\*DOXOLOGY**

*(sung to tune of GTG #609)*

**Praise God from whom all blessing flow;**

**Praise Him all creatures here below;**

**Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Praise Him above ye heav’nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## PRAYER FOR VITALITY

led by Jim Dixon

Heavenly Father, as we go forth today,  
We humbly beseech thee to enable the congregation of UPC of Yardville  
to follow the Vital Congregations Initiative and the 7 Marks of Vitality.  
May we now receive your mighty assistance, O Lord.  
We will seek a relationship with you, the Living God.  
We will share the Good News.  
We will rely on the Holy Spirit as a friend and teacher.  
We will use our story for your glory.  
We will trust your timing, O Lord.  
We will finish the race.  
Our spirits are now alive.  
Thank you for sharing Your Divine endless energy with us. AMEN.

## \*HYMN

“The Church’s One Foundation”

GTG #321

## BENEDICTION

Adebisi A. Shofu

## POSTLUDE

“The Solid Rock” *arr. E. Broughton*

### *Welcome to the Pulpit:*

**Adebisi A. Shofu**

**Also known as Bisi Shofu**

Adebisi (who is commonly referred to as Bisi) is a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Trenton. Adebisi is currently the Moderator of Coastlands Presbytery. She is a freelance preacher who preaches in churches of the Presbytery who are in need of pulpit supply for a particular Sunday.

She runs a Non-profit working with Children, Youth and Women and helping Non-profits raise funding. She serves on the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee (REAC) of the Office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, USA (PCUSA) and serves as liaison to the Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) a General Assembly Committee; as well as National Council of Churches (NCC) representing PCUSA. She has served on other commissions for the General Assembly.

She graduated from New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, New Jersey with an MDiv. Adebisi serves as an advocate for her community as well as a counselor. She serves as Chaplain at Skilled Nursing Facilities across New Jersey and has preached in many churches in the Presbytery as well as other denominations.

Adebisi is Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Disaster Preparedness Trainer whose responsibility is to educate churches and congregations on planning ahead to mitigate disasters. She specializes in educating people about health insurance programs, diversity training and self-help training. She has served her Presbytery in multiple capacities

She was the Visiting Chaplain for New Brunswick Presbyterian Church (NBPC), where she also served as the Director of Youth. Adebisi is the immediate past Moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**EXTRA COPIES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT  
ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.**

**EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORMS and ENVELOPES ARE IN  
THE NARTHEX *(on the Bulletin Table)*.**

**\*\*TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO PLACE YOUR ORDER.\*\***

TODAY ~ Sunday, March 17 ~ SESSION MEETING 12:15pm in the  
Manse Lounge

~ YOUTH GROUP 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Tuesday, March 19 ~ PNC MEETING 6:30 PM in the Manse Lounge

Thursday, March 21 ~ CANTATA DRESS REHEARSAL 7:00 PM in the  
Sanctuary

Sunday, March 24 ~ OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING 12:15pm in the  
Manse Lounge

## **\* UPCOMING HOLY WEEK EVENTS \***

**PALM SUNDAY service**

**Sunday, March 24, 2024 11:00 AM**

Will be held in the Sanctuary

**Cantata “He’s Alive” will be presented.**

**MAUNDAY THURSDAY service**

**Thursday, March 28, 2024 6:30 PM**

Service led by Rev. Don LaCrosse will be held in the Sanctuary

**ECUMENICAL GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**

**Friday, March 29, 2024 12:00 PM**

Will be held at Groveville United Methodist Church  
447 Church Street, Groveville 08620





**UPC's EASTER SERVICE**  
**Sunday, March 31, 2024 11:00 AM**

Will be held in the Sanctuary  
We will be collecting the FISH BANKS at this service  
Followed by

**UPC's ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT**  
**At 12:15 PM**



Monday, April 1 – OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, April 2 ~ FACILITIES MEETING 9:30 AM in Lower Level  
Fellowship Hall

~ UPW MEETING 10:00 AM in Upper Level Fellowship  
Hall

Thursday, April 4 ~ SECURITY TEAM MEETING 10:00 AM Manse  
Lounge

Saturday, April 6 ~ WOMEN'S RETREAT 9:00 AM in Upper Fellowship  
Hall (See attached flyer for details)

*NOTE that ALL WOMEN of the Congregation are invited to attend and bring their friends -- you don't need to be a UPW member to attend! Just let Lois, Gloria, or Jean know if you are planning to attend, and if you are bringing someone with you.*

Sunday, April 7 ~ COMMUNION SUNDAY – KIDS' FIRST SUNDAY  
~ COFFEE HOUR 12:00 PM hosted by the Session  
~VBS MEETING 12:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, April 10 ~ SURVIVOR'S LUNCHEON 12:00 PM at Town &  
Country Diner (Bordentown)

## **QUESTION OF THE WEEK:**

### **What is the SPRING EQUINOX?**

*Ans:* The Spring Equinox is the first day of Spring in the northern hemisphere. It is the day that the length of daylight equals the length of darkness. This year, the Spring Equinox falls on Tuesday, March 19.

## **GENEROSITY CORNER:**

UPC is accepting monetary donations for **OGHS (One Great Hour of Sharing)** until Sunday, March 31 – Easter Sunday. Please make out your check to UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH and mark “OGHS” in the memo line and on the offering envelope. Thank you.

***DON'T FORGET YOUR FISH BANKS ON EASTER SUNDAY!***

## ***Team Members Needed for Vacation Bible School!***

**VBS DATES:** Monday, July 22-Friday, July 26

Contact Megan Gadsby to sign up for opportunities to serve, lead, and most of all, HAVE FUN at VBS!

Join us as we are called together to serve God!

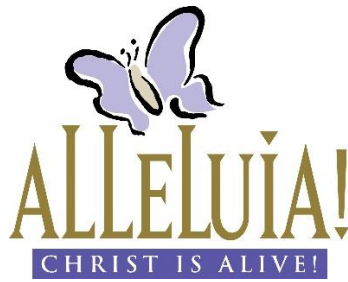
There will be a VBS volunteer meeting on Sunday, April 7th at 12:30 pm in the sanctuary.

*Thank you to this week's greeter:* BETTY REINERT

*This Month's Mission :* **ANCHOR HOUSE**

*Today's worship flowers are presented by Rose Wales*

*Happy Birthday to my Great Nephew, Alex,  
and my brothers Alex and John!*



Cantata rehearsals began on Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

The Easter cantata is titled “He’s Alive” and is a combination of treasured hymns, worship songs, and inspirational favorites with scripture and narration.

All are welcome to join the choir in singing this new cantata.

The cantata will be presented during 11 a.m. worship on **Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024.**

***\*\* If you attend UPC's 11:00 am Sunday service online,  
please say “HELLO” so we know you're there!***

**UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

12 Yardville-Hamilton Square Road

Yardville, NJ 08620

609-585-5770

[Office.upcnj@gmail.com](mailto:Office.upcnj@gmail.com)

[www.Upcnj.org](http://www.Upcnj.org)