

Welcome to Brick Presbyterian Church



Thomas the Doubter by Thomas von Gebhardt

ORDER FOR WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD ¹

Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

* Please stand as you are able

Congregational responses are in **bold**

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Brian Miles, Liturgist

PRELUDE

"Just as I Am"

arr. Dale Wood

Organist: W. R. Mahns

CALL TO WORSHIP

Into our fears and through our locked doors.

Come, Almighty God.

When we think 'peace be with you,' it means no change or disruption,

Come, Lord Jesus.

Amidst our lives that confuse religious entertainment with Easter fulfillment,

Come, Holy Spirit.

For the sake of a community meant to be its best during crisis,

Come Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

* HYMN

"Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers"

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CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Jill Moberg

*"Hurry penny quickly though you are so small;
Tell the little children that you love them all."*

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we confess our sins we are not doing so as lost, guilty and ambiguous human beings who are not sure of our standing before God. We do not come groveling, but we come confident as those who are no longer dead in our trespasses but who are already alive in Jesus Christ. Without God's grace, we would not even know we are sinners. So we confess together, first in individual, silent prayer, then together using our collective prayer. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(we begin with a moment of silence for personal confession)

O Lord our God, we think our best should happen when we are in control. Forgive us for not expecting the risen Christ to show up when we are anxious, content to lock the doors of your house for fear of all that is outside.

Forgive us for thinking that church mainly happens inside these walls and not into the world you so love and into which we are sent.

Forgive us for looking for your power in all the conventional places but never in places of brokenness, crisis and defeat. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, repair what we are, and by the power of Christ's resurrection, raise us up to serve others for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

You are already forgiven, loved and whole. In Christ, you are a fully flourishing human being; go live like it. In the Spirit, you are not an isolated spiritual being, doing Christianity alone, but you are part of a community of faith; go build that. By the grace of God, every human being is seen, loved, and made whole; go practice that. **Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since God has reconciled us through Jesus Christ, let us also be reconciled to one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

* RESPONSE TO GRACE

"Sim Shalom"

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THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Divine Redeemer, bearer of life, open us to the wisdom of your Word today and enlighten us with your truth. Liberate us from all that distracts us and turns us from your path. Guide us and ground us in Christ's everlasting hope. **Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 4:32-35

p. 951 in pew Bible

ANTHEM

"Via Dolorosa"

arr. David T. Clydesdale

Soloist: Maria Cambria

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING John 20:19-31

p. 945 in pew Bible

The Words of Holy Scripture for the people of God;

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE *"The Truth According to Pilate, Mary, Peter, Thomas"* Rev. Kristie Miles

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from The Study Catechism, Questions 43 and 46)*

What do you affirm when you say that Jesus was "crucified, dead, and buried"?

That when our Lord passed through the door of real human death, he showed us that there is no sorrow that he has not known, no grief he has not borne, and no price he was unwilling to pay in order to reconcile us to God.

What do you affirm when you say that 'on the third day Jesus rose again from the dead'?

That our Lord could not be held by the power of death. Having died on the cross, he appeared to his followers, triumphant from the grave, in a new, exalted kind of life. In showing them his hands and his feet, the one who was crucified revealed himself to them as the Lord and Savior of the world.

* HYMN

"Christ Is Alive!"

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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.

MOMENT FOR GRATITUDE

You are invited to silently thank God for one of your recent blessings.

OFFERING OF OUR LIVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

"In Christ Alone" by K Getty & S Townend
Soloist: Christy Tompkins

* DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

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* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Good and gracious God, help us to say thank you, to live with gratitude, to look for the best in each other, and to live charitably with all. May your resurrection never stop surprising us, disrupting us and transforming us, until Christ's kingdom comes. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING ²

May the Risen Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Lift your hearts to God, Resurrection People.

We lift our glad hearts to the One who gives us new life.

Children of God, sing with joy on this day of resurrection.

Songs of joy flow from our very being on this day . . .

. . . So, with those from every time and every place, with whom we hold faith in common, we sing your praises forever:

Holy, holy, holy, God of grace and hope.

All creation praises your glorious name.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes that our joy may be complete.

Hosanna in the highest! . . .

. . . As we gather to bear witness to his life and death, as we celebrate his resurrection and new hope, we declare that mystery we have heard and seen:

Christ went to the cross, stretching out his hands to embrace death;

Christ was brought out of the grave, reaching out his hands to embrace your love;

Christ will come, offering us his hands so we might go home with him . . .

. . . Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

You are invited to come forward to receive the Communion elements from one of the stations at the front of the sanctuary.

The servers will hand the elements to you. Gluten-Free and Regular premade, sealed Communion elements are available from the stations and from the server in the aisle.

The Bread of Heaven; **Thanks be to God.**

The Cup of Salvation; **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, we give you thanks that by the witness of your word and the sharing of this meal you have opened our hearts and eyes to the presence of Christ among us. Now send us forth from this place by the power of your Spirit to tell this good news to the world: The Lord has risen indeed! **Amen.**

RETURNING TO THE WORLD IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN

"Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

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CONNECTING OUR FAITH TO THE ACTIONS OF OUR CHURCH

CHARGE AND BLESSING

* POSTLUDE

"Trust and Obey"

arr. Mark Hayes

Keyboardist: W. R. Mahns

Worship Notes

Brick Presbyterian Church CCLI#1853779/Streaming#20110146

Cover Art: Gebhardt, Thomas von. Thomas the Doubter, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58314> [retrieved April 2, 2024].

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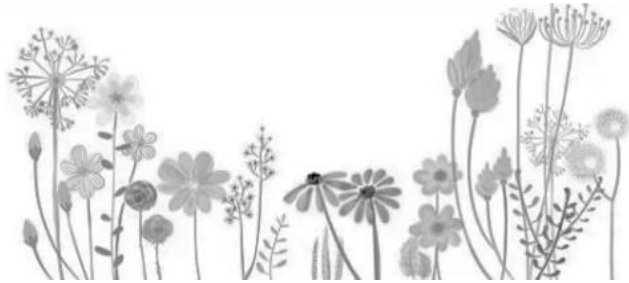
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¹ Liturgy written by Chris Currie. <https://images.pres-outlook.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Outlook-Order-of-Worship-April-7.pdf>

² Thom M. Shuman. <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Children and Families Have Options in Worship!

At the front of the sanctuary on the right-hand side, we have a "PrayGround area." This space is for children to sit together and do quiet activities while being present for the worship service. Children's bulletins, lap desks, crayons / colored pencils, puzzles, soft toys, and children's Bibles are available in the narthex. The Nursery, in classroom #1, is available from 9:00AM-11:00AM for children pre-k and under.



**This morning's chancel flowers are given to the
Glory of God by the Kraynick family,
in memory of their beloved grandfather, George Hatala.**

Prayer List

Gary Baker, Elba Figueroa, Lori & Harold Fisher,
Marlene Hirt, John Hunt, Rich Irwin, Dot Jones, Arlene Liegl,
Andy Meehan, Greg Morrison, Steve Prioli,
Rev. Larry Stoess, Michael Toth, Bob Towlen, Rich West

And Our Homebound:

Don Bertrand, Jack Macaluso,
Christine Meiselman - Hampton Ridge, Toms River
Ada Trinidad - Monmouth Crossing, Freehold



Come On Out!

Cheat Day For A Cause will take place on **Friday April 12**, from 4-10pm at the **Brownstone Pancake Factory** located at 979 Cedarbridge Ave., Brick. *Dine in or dine out.*
Pick Up a Flyer for the event on the Narthex table.

All Hand-On Deck! - Sign Up Sheet in Narthex



Coastlands.

Brick Presbyterian Church will be hosting the next Presbyterian Women's Gathering on Saturday, April 20! We need as many volunteers (*women and men*) as possible to provide stellar hospitality to our sisters from across the Presbytery of the

Some of the volunteer tasks: Welcome and direct attendees, staff check-in table, provide dessert, serve food, set up / clean up, run the dishwasher, facilitate the A/V equipment. *Please see Elaine Salto to volunteer on April 20* or if you are **interested in resurrecting** a Presbyterian Women (PW) Circle.



This Week in Our Church April 8 – 14

MONDAY	Finance Meeting	6:00PM
	Bell Choir Rehearsal	7:00PM
TUESDAY	Session Meeting	7:00PM
WEDNESDAY	Food Pantry Open	10:00AM – 2:00PM
	C&T Meeting	11:30AM
	Jr. Praise Team	6:30PM
	Praise Team	7:30PM
THURSDAY	Choir	6:30PM
SATURDAY	Church Workday	8:00AM- Noon
SUNDAY	*Church School	9:00AM
	<i>for children & adults</i>	
	Worship	10:00AM

***This Month's Church Workday Is
Saturday, April 13th***

Special Projects

1. Construction of new shed for Destiny Bridge donations
Need a team of people (3-4) to work together to assemble the shed.
2. General clean up and organization to the facility
FH: scrap old screens
Move warming treads from office stairs to FH basement storage area
3. Repair Pews:
Angle brackets and hardware are available

PB&G REQUEST-- Please call Pat 732-477-0676 to RSVP if you can help out with the 3 items above. This will help assess the skill set of the volunteers to properly put the team(s) together.

There are many cleaning and repairing jobs that need to be done throughout the church. Even if you have no *handyman* skills, there is a job to be tackled.

You can stay the whole time or part of the time.

Please speak to Chuck Cumella, Mark Ellis, or Joe Johnson today!

Brick Presbyterian Church

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Rev. Kristie Miles, *Pastor*

Patrice Law, *Clerk of Session*

Tim Towlen, *Moderator of Deacons; Michael Candeloro, Vice-Moderator*

Session

Class of 2025

Chuck Cumella, Tom Fortier, Patrice Law, Christy Tompkins, Craig Trautweiler

Class of 2026

Katie Candeloro, Marty Haluza, Michael Kraynick, Lynn Mizer, Jean Reilly

Class of 2027

Brian Aldrich, Michael Auriemma, Missy Brino, Barbara Drum, Mark Ellis

Board of Deacons

Class of 2025

Dorothy Aldrich, Carol Orbann, Elorm Banini, Sharon Thomas, Lauren Towlen

Class of 2026

Sue Britton, Michael Candeloro, Joan Horan, Tim Towlen, Shawn Trautweiler

Class of 2027

Kevin Nagy, Sabrina Nagy, Tracey Podolsky, Sally Schoeneick, Wendy Schweis

Staff

Karen Ellis, *Financial Secretary*

Mike Kraynick, *Treasurer*

Patricia Loboda, *Administrative Assistant*

Lorrie Haluza, *Interim Christian Education Coordinator*

Bonnie Luton, *Handbell Choir Director*

Edmond Murphy, *Director of Vocal Music*

Christy Tompkins, *Praise Team Leader*

W R Mahns, *Pianist / Organist*

Rev. Doug Chase, *Pastor Emeritus*