**Frenchtown Presbyterian Church**

PO Box 114, 22 Fourth St. Frenchtown, NJ 08825

 908-996-2227

 Website: www.frenchtownpres.org

Pastor Cell - 609-303-0500

**Worship 9:30AM**

**Clerk of Session**

Kathy Skerbetz – 908-720-6533

**Session (Elders)**

Maureen Breiner Bill Penyak

Shari Bethman Bjellquist Matt Melbourne

Jennifer Campbell Tonya Reese

Gayla Gerhardt Carl Stokes

Ed Marston Kathy Skerbetz

Diane Reed

**Board of Deacons**

Carole Barrett Barbara Kerekes

Sharon Beck Lorraine Sellitto

Debbie Godown Amy Verecha

Ken Gerhardt

**Pastor**

Rev. Dr. Merideth Mueller-Bolton

pastormerideth@gmail.com

**Church Secretary**

 Lea Raymond

 office@frenchtownpres.org

**Financial Manager**

 Mary Ann Hampton

 finance@frenchtownpres.org

**Music Director**

 Hugh Sung

hughsung@gmail.com

**FRENCHTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**March 24, 2024 – Palm Sunday**

**Welcome to all who worship with us this morning!**

Prelude

Palm Processional led by the Children

Welcome & Announcements

 **God Gathers Us in Love**

Call to Worship

Leader: With crowds from ancient times we cry,

**People: Hosanna! Save us!**

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

**People: God’s steadfast love endures forever.**

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

**People: We bless you in the house of the Lord!**

Leader: Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he,

**People: Humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**

 Leader: Let us worship the living God!

\*Hymn #197 “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, we can scarcely comprehend the scope of your forgiveness. We can hardly believe your amazing care for us. We confess that we often close ourselves off from your saving presence; and in our pride, we withhold forgiveness from other people. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, grant us the assurance of your love. May our hearts be filled with gratitude for your grace which overflows with love toward others. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

\*Passing of the Peace

Agnus Dei #518 “Lamb of God” (refrain)

 *O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,*

 *I love the holy Lamb of God!*

 *O wash me in his precious blood,*

 *my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.*

Time with Children

**God Speaks to Us Through God’s Word**

First Lesson Luke 19:29-40

Reading - Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 #544 “Bless the Lord My Soul”

 Refrain: *Bless the Lord, my soul,*

 *and bless God’s holy name.*

 *Bless the Lord, my soul,*

 *who leads me into life.*

Second Lesson Luke 19:41-44

Sermon “Lament of God”

**God Calls Us to Respond**

\*Hymn #269 “Lead On, O King Eternal!”

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory-Choral Anthem “Hosanna! Loud Hosanna!”

 by Lois Myers Emig

Doxology #606 “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Prayer of Dedication

Affirmation of Faith – The Lenten Creed (from Patmos Abbey – The Order of Saint Columba) (unison)

 **We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.**

 **We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God,**

 **and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.**

 **We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.**

 **We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.**

 **We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.**

 **We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.**

 **This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

**God Sends Us Out to Reflect God’s Love**

\*Hymn #198 “Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!”

Charge and Blessing

Benediction

Postlude

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

We are a body of believers in Jesus Christ the Lord that strives to be a living reflection of God’s love. We come together to confirm our individual faith while spreading the message of hope and love by serving those in need through mission and outreach.

**NEWS AND EVENTS**

**EVENTS DURING THE WEEK** – **March 25-31**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

 AA Meeting 6:30am

 Card Games, 1-4pm in Fellowship Hall

 AA Meeting, 8pm

**Wednesday**

 Bible Study, 10am in Memorial Parlor

 AA Meeting 7:30pm

 Lenten Soup Supper and Study 5:45pm

**Thursday**

 AA Meeting 6:30am

**Friday**

 Good Friday Service, 7pm

**Saturday**

 5th Saturday Community Clean up

 Saturday Women's AA Group Meeting 9am

 AA Meeting 7pm

**Candy Donation for egg hunt**

Easter is right around the corner!  The Mission and Outreach Committee is asking for donation of candy for the Easter egg hunt after worship on Easter Sunday.  Plastic eggs are available to be filled or leave candy donations in the kitchen.  Thank you!

**Fifth Saturday Event**

Join us for the 5th Saturday Community event this Saturday March 30th for the river/towpath clean up. Meet at the church at 9am for check in and breakfast, 10am-12pm cleanup.

**Save the Date**

VBS - at Alexandria Presbyterian Church, June 17-21, 9-11:30am.

If interested in volunteering or have any questions, contact Kathy Skerbetz at 908-720-6533.

**Good Friday Service**

NEIL PODGURSKI, Jazz pianist, composer educator and deeply embedded performer in the N.Y. and Philly jazz scene will supply music for our GOOD FRIDAY March 29th service at 7 pm.  Do not miss this unique worship service.

**Book Club**

The Book Club will meet April 8th at 1pm downstairs in the church. The book they will be reading and discussing is "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks. All are invited!