

**The United First Presbyterian Church
of Amwell at Larison's Corner**



The Reverend Courtney B. Cromie, Pastor

1000 Old York Road, Ringoes, NJ 08551 / Mailing Address: PO Box 348, Ringoes, New Jersey 08551
908-788-2722 / www.larisonscorner.org / pastorcourtney@larisonscorner.org

ASH WEDNESDAY
March 2, 2022 7 PM

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

People: God's love endures forever. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Leader: Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

People: Though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

All: Let us Worship God!

Hymn "Just as I Am, without One Plea"

Just as I am, without one plea; But that Thy blood was shed for me. And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee; O Lamb of God, I come! I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about With many a conflict, many a doubt. Fightings and fears within, without O Lamb of God, I come, I come

Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot O Lamb of God, I come, I come

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind. Sight, riches, healing of the mind. Yea, all I need, in Thee to find O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive. Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; Because Thy promise I believe O Lamb of God, I come, I come

Because Thy promise I believe O Lamb of God, I come, I come

Litany of Confession

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

People: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,

Leader: So that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

People: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Leader: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

People: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Leader: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

People: Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

Leader: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

All: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Assurance of Pardon

Anthem – “Ashes” - Larison’s Corner Choral & Chimes Choirs

Lighting Candles of Remembrance

Hymn “Be Still My Soul”

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; bear patiently the cross of grief or pain; leave to your God to order and provide; in ev'ry change he faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly friend through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul; your God will undertake to guide the future as he has the past; your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know his voice who ruled them while he lived below.

Be still, my soul; when dearest friends depart and all is darkened in the vale of tears, then you will better know his love, his heart, who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears. Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay from his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on when we shall be forever with the Lord, when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone, sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored. Be still my soul; when change and tears are past, all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Old Testament Scripture: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

1 Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—2 a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. 12 Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 13 rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

14 Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; 16 gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. 17 Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

Hymn “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

How deep the Father’s love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure

How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

New Testament Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 6 As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 2 For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! 3 We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4 but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6 by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7 truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8 in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; 9 as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; 10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Homily

Hymn “Wayfaring Stranger”

I’m just a poor wayfaring stranger, I’m trav’ling through this world below; There is no sickness, toil, nor danger, In that bright world to which I go. I’m going there to see my father, I’m going there no more to roam; I’m just a going over Jordan, I’m just a going over home.

I know dark clouds will gather o’er me, I know my pathway’s rough and steep; But golden fields lie out before me, Where weary eyes no more shall weep. I’m going there to see my mother, She said she’d meet me when I come; I’m just a going over Jordan, I’m just a going over home.

I want to sing salvations story, In concert with the blood-washed band; I want to wear a crown of glory, When I get home to that good land. I’m going there to see my brothers, They passed before me one by one; I’m just a going over Jordan, I’m just a going over home.

I’ll soon be free from every trial, This form will rest beneath the sod; I’ll drop the cross of self-denial, And enter in my home with God. I’m going there to see my Saviour, Who shed for me His precious blood; I’m just a going over Jordan, I’m just a going over home.

Invitation to Lenten Discipline

Offertory

Imposition of Ashes

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

The Offertory

Hymn “God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

God be with you till we meet again; By his counsels guide, uphold you; With his sheep securely fold you. God be with you till we meet again. Till we meet, till we meet, Till we meet at Jesus’ feet, Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; When life’s perils thick confound you, Put his arms unfailing round you. God be with you till we meet again. Till we meet, till we meet, Till we meet at Jesus’ feet, Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

Benediction

**Depart Quietly*

Welcome to Larison’s Corner! We are pleased you are here with us. We hope you feel the warmth of God’s love in our fellowship and worship. It is our hope that you return again soon. Until then, may God bless you and keep you in the palm of his hands.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Sermon Series, "The I AM Sayings of Jesus"

Sunday, March 6, 1st Sunday of Lent "I AM the Bread of Life" John 6:35-40

Sunday, March 13, 2nd Sunday of Lent "I AM the Light of the World" John 8:12-20

Sunday, March 20, 3rd Sunday of Lent "I AM the Door" John 10:1-10

Sunday, March 27, 4th Sunday of Lent "I AM the Good Shepherd" John 10:11-18

Sunday, April 3, 5th Sunday of Lent "I AM the Resurrection and the Life" John 11:17-27

Bible Study and Tea, Wednesday, March 9, 3 PM Lois Riggs will be leading Tea & Bible Study which meets the Second and Fourth Wednesdays at 3 pm. Tea and English pastries served. To learn more information, speak to Lois Riggs. All are invited to come.

Wednesday Night Lenten Bible Study, People of the Passion, Starts March 9, 6:30 - 8:30 PM In-Person and Via Zoom (March 16, March 23, March 30, April 6, & April 13) - A weekly Lenten Bible Study for both Men and Women. We will study those in Scripture who participated in some dramatic way in the suffering and death of Jesus. Come all six nights or just one or two. Contact Pastor Courtney for more info at pastorcourtney@larisonscorner.org

St. Patrick's Day Trivia & Game Night, Monday, March 14, 6:30-8:30 PM, Join us for a fun night of Trivia, Games, Fellowship, and Fun Snacks. There will be prizes too!

Food Drive for Those in Need – We can help struggling families in our community with food/item needs. Items Needed: cereal, pancake mix and syrup, peanut butter and jelly, mac and cheese, pasta and sauce, tuna, soup, Chef Boyardee, toilet paper, and paper towels. Please place donations in the bin outside the side entrance of the church. If you know of families that need help, please contact Kirkpatrick Presbyterian at 908.782.1177 or admin@kirkpatrickchurch.org. Kirkpatrick Presbyterian: 37 John Ringo Rd, Ringoes NJ, 08551 A donation box is here at Larison's Corner and we drop the items there later.

Update from Trustees Construction continues in the meeting room and the sanctuary. Currently we are awaiting the hard wiring to be completed and inspections to pass before dry wall and next steps can begin. The fire alarm and security system are also underway. We are so blessed with the gift of the Sibbri Foundation Money!

Share Your Resources to Support the Ministry of Larison's Corner – Ways to Give: 1. Leave a gift in the worship offering via cash or check; 2. Mail in a gift via check to Larison's Corner Church, PO Box 348, Ringoes, NJ 08551; 3. Give Online through "Tithely" You can make an online gift, by visiting our website link at: <https://larisonscorner.org/contributions/>. You may also give on Facebook in our "about" section or by clicking here:

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=4558529> - Once you are in Tithely, you can set up a one-time gift, ongoing gifts, or a special gift. **Give today by using your camera on your cell phone over the image to the right and following the link to make your donation.*



LENTEN SEASON & HOLY WEEK

What is Lent? Lent is 40 days preceding Easter to repent and prepare for the Lord. Lent begins Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter. “Lent” comes from Old English “lencten,” which means “lengthen.” The lengthening of daylight happens in the 40 days. Lent is for meditation, prayer, sharing of alms with the poor, and repenting of sins. We use this season to recall the meaning of Easter. Christ lived and died to redeem the world from sin through his life, death, suffering, and resurrection

Palm Sunday - Sunday, April 10 at 11 AM

Palm Sunday is the day we remember Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem. Re-enacting Jesus’ triumphal entry on a donkey began in the 4th century. Still today, people carry and wave palms into the church. The church becomes a symbol of Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday – Thursday, April 14 at 7 PM

Maundy Thursday is remembered as the night before Jesus’ was betrayed. Maundy is from Latin *mandatum* which means commandment. Jesus says that there is a new commandment “Love one another even as I have loved.” Jesus commanded us to remember him in the breaking of bread and the drinking of cup. Jesus told of forgiveness through his death and resurrection. Jesus’ washed the disciples’ feet to model service to others.

Good Friday – Friday, April 15 at 7 PM

Since the end of the 4th century, Good Friday is the commemoration of the cross. We acknowledge Christ as the sacrificial lamb on the cross. Christ’s death on the cross is when he takes upon himself the sins of the world to offer forgiveness for all. In a *Tenebrae* service, we hear the passion story. The service is in a darkened church and is known as a service of shadows. Candles are extinguished as the story unfolds until Christ’s death is recounted. The congregation leaves in silence.

Easter - Sunday, April 17 at Services at Sunrise and 11:00 AM

Easter Sunday is when we celebrate the joy of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead. The days of reflection and preparation of Lent have come to an end. Easter is the oldest festival of the church year and a celebration of the most joyful season. Everything points to the glorious resurrection of Jesus.

Session

(Session meetings are the second Tuesday at 7:30 pm)

Class of 2022

Dianne Fleming
Arlene Knaub

Class of 2023

Lysa Reiter
Lois Riggs
Charlie Rogers

Class of 2024

Betty Jane Biache
Ruth Chiesa

Other Ordained Elders

David Bond
Bill Heilman
Jodi Reed

Donna DeVico
Marlene Lambert

Judy Grignon
Paula Melbourn

Board of Trustees

(Board of Trustees meets the first Tuesday at 7:30 pm)

Class of 2022

John Chiesa
David Everitt

Class of 2023

Bill Kurylo
Treacy Weeks

Class of 2024

Kyle Bond

Corner Club

President - Lois Riggs
Vice President – Kathy Kovacs
Secretary - Ruth Chiesa
Treasurer - Barri-Lynn Everitt

The Reverend Courtney B. Cromie, Stated-Supply Part-Time Pastor

Luke Kirby, Treasurer

Deborah Kacerek-Cooley, Assistant Treasurer

Lois Riggs, Clerk of Session

Sharon Keyes, Director of Music

Sue Mannino, Organist Emeritus