

# Absecon Presbyterian Church

Welcome to Absecon Presbyterian Church! Thank you for choosing to participate this week in a worship service centered on love of God for you, and your opportunity to participate in God's work to reconcile all things through Jesus Christ. This service is not designed to be just another show to watch, but a place to interact as a community and join our voices in prayer. You are invited to follow along, sing, pray and take an active role in the service today.

## INTERACTIVE ONLINE WORSHIP & THE LORD'S SUPPER THE 5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

*Sunday, February 7, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.*

**The service outlined in this bulletin is meant to be interactive.**

Please participate by reading all parts in ***bold italic*** and please feel free to comment, greet your fellow viewers, and type in prayer requests. Another way to participate is using the reactions on Facebook to be a part of the service.



*Preparing Our Hearts to Receive the Word*

**Prelude** Rick DeKarski, Music Director

**Welcome & Announcements** Drew Mangione, Pastor

**Call to Worship** (based on Psalm 147:1-11, 20c)

**Leader:** Halleluiah! Praise the LORD!

**People:** ***How good it is to sing praises to our God!***

**Leader:** The Lord is gracious. It is right to give our praise!

**People:** ***The LORD builds up Jerusalem and gathers the outcasts of Israel. The brokenhearted are healed, the Lord binds their wounds.***

**Leader:** The Lord determines the number of stars, gives them names. Great is our Lord, who is abundant in power and understands beyond measure.

**People:** ***The LORD lifts the downtrodden, casts the wicked to the ground. We make music in thanks!***

**Leader:** The Lord covers mountains with clouds, sends the rain down, and makes grass grow on hills.

**People:** ***The Lord feeds the animals, even baby ravens.***

**Leader:** Is the Lord's delight in a strong warhorse or speed?

**People:** ***No, the LORD takes pleasure in the humble, those who hope in the steadfast love of their God.***

**All:** ***Praise the Lord forever! Let us worship our God!***

### Today on the Church Calendar

The Church calendar provides a rhythm to the year based on the revelation of God in Jesus Christ. Each season has a theological theme based on scripture. The Season after Epiphany focuses on revealing who God is, primarily through Jesus is as both fully God and fully human, but also in the revelation of God's attributes and God's direct action in the world.

In this week, the readings from the Revised Common Lectionary point to the redemption that is promised to those who wait. Waiting on the Lord is a spiritual discipline that promises to build our strength.

### What is a Call to Worship?

The Call to Worship is an interactive use of scripture, intended to help us remember that every service is a time of worship. God calls us to be citizens in the Kingdom through the church. This part of our liturgy calls the gathered to join the worship.

Psalm 147 is a hymn of praise to the Lord God (YHWH). It opens with a call to worship that praises God for restoring Jerusalem and bringing the people back from exile. This is the healing of the brokenhearted whose wounds are bound after much waiting. Still, the God who is the maker of the universe and the one who controls nature, is still concerned about one small nation and every aspect of nature, even the helpless birds. The Psalmist says that the strength of horses and the speed of runners, which refer to the military, are not what pleases God. Rather, it is those who fear, revere and desire to please God, and those who seek God's faithfulness and love that truly please God.

### What is Confession?

To confess is to tell the truth. In this part of the service, we are first called by the church to confess our sins. We then tell the truth about our sins, or our separation from God caused by what we have done or left undone, and what others have done or left undone. By this, action of prayer, we turn away from sin, or repent, and turn toward God's Kingdom.

Since it is God who ultimately calls us to faith and worship, we trust that our repentance is always met with grace, a free gift of mercy.

### Forgiveness

Forgiveness is central to the faith of Christians. To forgive is not to say that an offense never occurred, but to tell someone they are guilty, and that you will show mercy.

To repent and be forgiven, is not to convince God that we did nothing wrong, but to give up any attempt to lie to the One who cannot be deceived and accept our conviction with mercy that God promises up front.

That deserves a 😱.

### What is a Prayer for Illumination?

This prayer asks the Holy Spirit to open our ears to the Word of God and drown out our own voices. In this prayer, we are submitting to God's will, not ours.

### Why are we reading these?

At APC, the readings each week are typically drawn from the Revised Common Lectionary, which gives options for readings from the Old and New Testaments, including a selection from one of the gospels.

The suggested readings to draw from for today are from Year B:

- Isaiah 40:21-31
- Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
- 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
- Mark 1:29-39

## Opening Prayer

### Opening Hymn

“Arise Your Light Is Come”

Lyrics: RUTH DUCK Tune: FESTAL SONG, Worship & Rejoice, 231

### Accepting God's Grace and Forgiveness

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

***Forgive us Lord, for we are afflicted, we are riddled with pain, and we have been rotted by sin in this world. We need your physical and spiritual healing to deliver us from the false gods we put our trust in. Raise us up O God, that by your grace, we might know the power of your new life, your resurrection, here and now. Hear our confession that by your forgiveness, we may reveal your glory. Amen.***

### Assurance of Pardon

**R: Thanks be to God.**

### Response to Forgiveness

Gloria Patri

***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.***

### Receiving the Word Proclaimed

Response after each reading: **Thanks be to God.**

## Prayer for Illumination

### First Reading

Isaiah 40:21-31(NRSV)

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me? Or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God”?

## Arise, Your Light Is Come!

231

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; show  
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door; pro -  
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born, bind  
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song! Rise

forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
 claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.  
 up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
 up like ea - gles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

# 355 This Is a Day of New Beginnings

*Unison*

1 This is a day of new be - gin-nings, time to re - mem - ber  
 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, love's might-y Spir - it,  
 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the past and  
 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and share what  
 \*4 *In faith we'll gath - er round the ta - ble to taste and share what*

and move on, time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,  
 now as then, can make for us a world of dif - ference,  
 leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing,  
 love can do. This is a day of new be - gin - nings;  
*love can do. This is a day of new be - gin - nings;*

1-3      4

lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.  
 as faith and hope are born a - gain.  
 seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.  
 our God is mak - ing all things new.  
*our God is mak - ing all things new.*

\*Alternate text for Holy Communion

WORDS: Brian Wren (1936- )  
 MUSIC: Carlton R. Young (1926- )

BEGINNINGS  
 9.8.9.8.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

### Final Reading

Mark 1:29-39 (Pastor's Translation)

And immediately from having come out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. And there, Simon's mother in law was laying there sick, burning with a fever. And immediately, they called to him about her. And having come to her, he raised her up, having taken hold of her hand. The fever left her, and she began to minister to them.

And then, in the evening when the sun went down, they began bringing to him all those who were being afflicted, and those being possessed by demons. And all the city was gathered around at the door. And he healed many who were being afflicted by various diseases and he cast out many demons. And he would not allow the demons to utter a word, because they knew him.

And in the night, before the sun came up, him having risen up, he departed out to a solitary place and there, Jesus was praying. And Simon and those with him hunted after him, and having found him, they also called to him, 'Everyone here seeks and adores you!' And he said to them, 'Let us go a different way, into the neighboring towns, in order that I might proclaim out there, for this is why I have come.' And he was going, proclaiming the message in their synagogues, in all of Galilee, and casting out demons.

### Sermon

'Raised Up, Ready to Minister'

#### Responding to the Word

#### Hymn of Response

"This is a Day of New Beginnings"

Lyrics: BRIAN WREN Tune: BEGINNINGS, Worship & Rejoice, 355

#### Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed

***We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.***

***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through Him all things were made.***

***For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven. He was born of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.***

#### Confession of Faith

The Nicene Creed was written after the Roman Empire legalized the worship of Christ. In doing so, the emperor needed a definition of who is a Christian. So, bishops from all over the empire came together to write this creed to say who Christ is and why He is to be worshipped. The bishops chose not to look at differing regional doctrines, and instead focus on the core truths at the heart of our Christian faith.

This Creed upholds that the Father, Son and Spirit are all co-equal and thus equally the Lord, God of Israel. Each one is fully the One True God, in substance, but each one is a fully distinct person. The Trinity is and of itself a community. We are invited into that community to be loved and to respond with love for God and love one another.

## Prayers of the People

Each week the people of God at APC join in prayers of thanksgiving, praise and petition to pray as one community for needs in the church.

Praying for others keeps our focus outward and opens us up to know the will of God in our own lives. Consider making these prayer lists part of your daily prayer life. Doing so, may just help your feelings of isolation. Through prayer, the Holy Spirit brings others, even strangers, closer to you.

Here is our standing list of friends and family to keep in prayer at all times, for chronic health conditions and long-standing concerns. If there is an acute issue, they will be moved to the acute need list.

- ✠ Teresa (brain tumor)
- ✠ Minerva Stadlmeir
- ✠ Marge Loeb
- ✠ Louise Speitel
- ✠ Kavonna & Essence
- ✠ Darryl, Kristen and Quentin
- ✠ Rich Hardy
- ✠ Dirk Williamson
- ✠ Jim Price
- ✠ Donna Hughes
- ✠ Bill Tilley
- ✠ Elaine Riskey
- ✠ Frances Weir
- ✠ Emilia Carboy
- ✠ Irene Smith
- ✠ Aiden & Wendy Licolli
- ✠ Kathy Boyte
- ✠ Jean Delesantro
- ✠ Betsy Cunius
- ✠ Marjorie McGuigan
- ✠ Doris Steele
- ✠ Essie Newell
- ✠ Joyce Pfeiffer
- ✠ Don & Lucy Croneberger
- ✠ Marie C. & Carmen Devece
- ✠ Olga Davies
- ✠ Carol Thomas
- ✠ Jim Mong
- ✠ Edith Budd
- ✠ Carol DeLaurentis
- ✠ Mildred Felsberg
- ✠ Virginia Loeb

***We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.***

***We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.***

## Prayers of the People

For this litany please participate in the call and response, and include your prayer requests in the comments on Facebook.

Call: In awe of you, we seek your Word.

Response: ***Hear us. We await your answer.*** (and with a 🤔.)

- ✠ For peace, cooperation, and integrity in our political process.
- ✠ For an end to the COVID pandemic, the success of the vaccine, the continued improvement of treatments.
- ✠ For those battling this virus, including several on our list of intentions, that they would know a full recovery.
- ✠ For those mourning loved ones lost and those who have gone without care for other conditions due to the virus.
- ✠ For your wisdom where we gather, protection from the virus and consolation as we grieve change.
- ✠ For the lonely and isolated, the angry and afraid, especially those struggling with mental illness.
- ✠ For the marginalized, the poor, and downtrodden here in our communities, our state, our nation and the whole world.
- ✠ For this, your church community to live into its purpose and offer your love to those who do not yet fully know you.
- ✠ For a revival in our faith to live boldly for your Kingdom.
- ✠ For these individuals and families in acute need right now who are connected to your church in Absecon:

- |                         |                     |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| ✠ Rita Abelson          | ✠ The Gillis Family | ✠ Christopher Green |
| ✠ Jerry Hoenes          | ✠ Rob Perry         | ✠ Diane Ford        |
| ✠ Marilyn & Tito Rosado | ✠ JoAnne Morgan     | ✠ Dorie Keener      |
| ✠ Judy Stebbins         | ✠ Dan Hughes        | ✠ Charles Snowden   |
| ✠ Betty Price           | ✠ Stan Weir         | ✠ John King         |
| ✠ Stephanie Gibbs       | ✠ Julie             |                     |
| ✠ Bobby Mitchell        | ✠ The Morris Family |                     |
|                         | ✠ Robin McBrearty   |                     |

† For the needs of your church not listed here, those concerns held in the silence of our hearts and shared in our comments.

### 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, now and forever. Amen.***

### Call to Offer Ourselves and Our Gifts

Thank you for your continued generosity. You are by your gifts of time, talent and treasure, ministers or servants to the will of God. A church is a community, and our bond is built by prayer for and with one another, generosity to each other, those in most need around us, and the church itself.

By your loving response to God's grace in your life through your service and giving, you ensure that your church is strong and able to witness to God's love in your community with the good news that is so desperately needed.

### Prayer of Dedication

#### Response of Thanksgiving

Doxology

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.***

#### *Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*

### Invitation to the Table

#### Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: *And also with you.***

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**All: *We lift them up to the Lord.***

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: *It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, Eternal and Triune God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Father, you are the Source of all things, creator of all that is, both seen and unseen, almighty and yet imminent. You set the sun to brighten the day and the moon and stars to bring light to the night. Yet you know each of us by name and lead us by the light of your truth into the way of love, justice and peace.

#### How can I give?

Please give your time by praying for your church and your community, and by calling and checking in on your church family, including those you do not talk to regularly.

Please give your talent, by offering your skills to alleviate the strain put on us all by this pandemic.

Please give from your treasure through your tithes and offerings, which can be mailed to:

Absecon Presbyterian Church  
208 New Jersey Avenue  
Absecon, NJ 08201

#### Online Giving

You can also give online at:

[www.AbseconPresby.org/give](http://www.AbseconPresby.org/give)

All gifts made online are safe and secure through the Presbyterian Foundation. At this time, gifts to the General Fund and Benevolence are what is most needed.

#### The Great Thanksgiving

The Liturgy of the Lord's Supper starts with the Great Thanksgiving, which expresses our Trinitarian beliefs in one God in three persons, namely the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This month it is modeled on the Nicene Creed, which was the first confession of faith put together by church leaders to formalize a shared interpretation of scripture.



### What is the Lord's Supper?

After the Protestant Reformation, there has been much debate over the theology of Communion. Nearly every Christian tradition holds it as vital to our worship, but how ranges from views that it is the essence of worship to views that it is a valued symbol we should bring out every now and again. In the Presbyterian Church (USA) we hold that it is a Sacrament, or a visible sign of God's grace. These common elements convey for us a divine reality in Jesus Christ.

In the Lord's Supper, the Holy Spirit draws us into Christ's presence by faith and unites with the Church in every time and place. We are brought into communion with the real presence of the risen Lord through His body and blood by faith, and at the same time, brought into communion with one another as the body of Christ on earth.

This meal is a foretaste of the divine banquet of the new creation, when we will sit at table with each other and our God. It is prefigured in the offering of bread and wine made by Melchizedek with Abraham, the unleavened bread of Passover, the Manna in the wilderness, and the temple bread of the presence.

### Home Communion

Your participation does not require communion wafers and grape juice. Use what you have that you think best represents in your context the bread and wine used by Jesus.

A guideline has been created and is available on the church Web site. [Bit.ly/CommunionAPC](http://Bit.ly/CommunionAPC)

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

You are holy, O God of majesty and blessed is your Son, our Lord Jesus the Messiah, the Christ. Fully one with you in being and substance, your Word which is you, by which you created all things, and still our brother, like us in all things but sin.

You shared in our humanity and in the face of Jesus, we glimpse your glory. In the life of Jesus, you revealed the love of your Kingdom. In his death, you demonstrated the lengths to which your love extends, taking our sin and the power of death to the cross for us. In his rising from the grave, we behold your light.

O Lord, we present from your creation these earthly elements of food and drink, which we have gathered here at this table and in our homes. May these be for us like the bread and wine of your table and become for us much more. We partake in this meal with joy remembering your death and resurrection as we await your return, when you will restore heaven and earth as one.

In thanksgiving, we offer ourselves to you to be a holy and living sacrifice dedicated to your service. Conform our minds to your good news and transform our hearts in praise to you Lord Jesus:

**All: *Dying you destroyed our death.***

***Rising you restored our life.***

***Lord Jesus, come in glory.***

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of food and drink, grain and grape, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share in this feast, united in service in every place.

As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. As this drink is Christ's blood shed for us, may we be your covenant people to reveal your Reign now and forever. ***Amen.***

### **Words of Institution**

### **Distribution of the Elements**

Please receive each element individually, and prayerfully.

Home Officiant (Bread): Body of Christ, given for you. ***Amen.***

Home Officiant (Drink): Blood of Christ, shed for you. ***Amen.***

### **Prayer After Communion**



## Bringing the Word to the World

### Closing Hymn

“Healer of our Every Ill”

Lyrics & Music: MARTY HAUGEN Worship & Rejoice, 630

### Charge and Benediction

Drew Mangione

### Peoples’ Response

“O Come Let Us Adore Him”

Lyrics: J.WADE/ANONYMOUS Tune: ADESTE FIDELES, Worship & Rejoice, 114

***We’ll praise his name forever (x3) — Christ the Lord.***

### Spreading God’s Peace

Please take a moment in the comment section to share some words or emojis of peace to one another, for in this world we are called to bring the peace of Christ to one another.

### Postlude

Rick DeKarski

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### How Might You Rise Up For Your Church?

Your talents and input are needed now more than ever as your church navigates a changing world. Absecon Presbyterian Church has eight standing committees and it seems likely that one or more could use your input to help shape the future of this church. This year will be a make or break year for many churches, but with your help, we can see difficult challenges as an opportunity to serve God in new ways!

Please reach out to one of the committee chairpersons below or call Administrative Assistant Gay Channell in the church office at 609-641-3759 to express your interest in serving. You can also email [RegisterAPC\(at\)comcast.net](mailto:RegisterAPC(at)comcast.net).

The committees, chairperson and a brief overview:

**Mission/Evangelism** — Elder Naida Burgess, for service and outreach to individuals or organizations outside the church.

**Fellowship** — Elder Bill Keener, for building community in the church through events and other ways to share life.

**Christian Education** — Elders Laura Puglise and Scott Sabo, for the development of youth and adult education programs.

**Stewardship** — Elder Lee Wolff, to cultivate resources of time, talent and treasure, and budget for the church.

**Worship** — Elder Janet Gee, for church music and services.

**Finance** — Trustee Bob Hudak, for oversight of finances.

**Property**—Trustee Dan Hughes, for the maintenance of the church’s facilities and properties.

**Personnel** — Trustee Cindy Gorgo, for employee oversight.

**Cemetery** — Trustee Melvin Washington, for maintenance, planning and care for the church’s historic cemetery.

### Wednesday Morning Prayer

Throughout these months of being socially distant, this Morning Prayer Ministry has continued to meet via Zoom to lift up the names of all who are affiliated with the church and the specific prayer requests that you send in.

If you have a request for prayer or would like someone who you love to be included in prayer, please call the church or send an email to [PrayerAPC@gmail.com](mailto:PrayerAPC@gmail.com).

### Worship without the Internet

If you or someone you know is not connected to the Internet, we will mail the bulletin and sermon out midweek to you or them. Also, by late Monday afternoon each week the previous Sunday’s sermon is available by phone to listen day or night at your own convenience by calling this number: (609) 212-0313.

# Healer of Our Every Ill

## Refrain

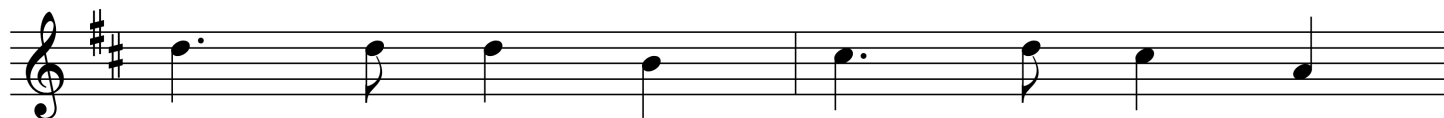


Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

## Verses



1. You who know our fears and sad - ness,
2. In the pain and joy be - hold - ing,
3. Give us strength to love each oth - er,
4. You who know each thought and feel - ing,



Grace us with your peace and glad - ness,  
How your grace is still un - fold - ing,  
Ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er,  
Teach us all your way of heal - ing,



Spir - it of all com - fort: fill our hearts.  
Give us all your vi - sion: God of love.  
Spir - it of all kind - ness: be our guide.  
Spir - it of com - pas - sion: fill each heart.

*Absecon  
Presbyterian  
Church*

**Session**

Naida Burgess  
Janet Gee  
Bill Keener  
Laura Puglise  
Scott Sabo  
Ann Wallace, clerk  
Jo-ann Weller  
Lee Wolff  
Don Wong

**Deacons**

Vic Abelson  
Jackson Harvey  
Dorie Keener  
Loretta Metz, moderator  
Betty Price  
Julie Seltzer  
Sandy Shinsato  
Georgina Umoren  
Debora Wong

**Trustees**

Cindy Gorgo  
Bob S. Hudak  
Dan Hughes  
Betty Lloyd  
Melvin Washington  
Don Wong, chair

**Music Director**

Rick DeKarski

**Administrative Assistant**

Gay Channell

**Christian Ed Coordinator**

Tina Harvey

**Treasurer**

Anne Hyatt

**Custodian**

Linda Adkisson

**Pastor**

Drew Mangione

**Morning Prayer for the Week**

Loving God, you are the creator of all things. It was you who set the universe into motion and yet you take an interest in each of us, and even in the things we might consider small or insignificant. Your word reveals that you are grieved by death and so you restore life. You are the resurrection and the life, even when it seems as though death has won. As you raised me up from my slumber, resurrect my faith, my hope and your love in me. Grant that I might live as one raised from the grave, ready to proclaim your good news so that others may see your love through my life and how I treat others. Amen.

**Evening Prayer for the Week**

Lord Jesus, in the dark of night you rose to pray in solitude in a culture where privacy was nearly impossible. In our culture, we are too often lonely, and still we find it hard to be alone with you. We want you near, but fear your nearness because of our guilt and shame, for we know that we have not lived up to your standards. Hear my confession in this dark of night for I know that I have sinned, but I confess also that I know you are my Lord and my God, and that you love me. Forgive me, I pray, and give me rest to revive my soul, and in the new day, take my hand and raise me up to serve you. Amen.

**Recommended Reading for the Week**

*Read each day's passage in your home Bible or online. Each day at 6:30 a.m. the reading of the day and the morning and evening prayers will be posted at [www.facebook.com/abseconpresby](http://www.facebook.com/abseconpresby).*

*Be sure to read the posts, comment with any questions you might have about the scriptures, then like and share too!*

**Monday:** Numbers 16

**Thursday:** Ecclesiastes 11

**Tuesday:** Acts 22:12-22

**Friday:** Acts 22:23-30

**Wednesday:** Psalm 147

**Saturday:** Acts 23:1-11

*Absecon Presbyterian Church  
208 New Jersey Avenue, Absecon, NJ 08201  
(609) 641-3759*

[www.AbseconPresby.org](http://www.AbseconPresby.org) — [www.Facebook.com/AbseconPresby](http://www.Facebook.com/AbseconPresby)