

March 9, 2025
10:00 a.m.
1st Sunday in Lent

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

ORGAN PRELUDE (If you must speak, speak to God)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Bob Toro

THE INTROIT "Goodness of God" Cece Winans

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

When Jesus was in the wilderness, he was tempted to save himself.
We often look for the good things for ourselves first, before the well-being of others.

Jesus was offered salvation if he turned stones to bread; if he accepted wealth and power; if he tested God's commitment to him.
In all these things, Jesus remained strong in his commitment to God.

May our commitment be as strong.

May our lives be placed in God's caring hands throughout our journey.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION Rev. Dr. Glen Misick

OPENING HYMN #356 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In a world which values gambling, risking, taking dares, Lord, we come to this time of temptation. We confess that we are often enticed to take the risk for the rewards, often financial, offered if you win. Just "a dollar and a dream" and we hear the glory stories of people receiving great monetary wealth; later, we discover how many lives have been destroyed by this grand prize. Forgive us when we hunger for the wealth and power the world dangles

before us. Move us from greed to gratitude for Your blessings. Heal our wounded spirits and lives, so that we may fully serve You. Prepare us for this journey of discipleship and healing. In Jesus' name, we pray.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Rev. Dr. Glen Misick
God will provide for your needs. Place your trust in God. You are not alone. God is with you always. The world cannot offer to you such abiding riches as the presence of God.
Amen. Thanks be to God.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Apostles' Creed)

Let us confess the faith of the Church as one, using the words of the Apostles' Creed. Church, what do you believe?

I believe in God the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic* church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

(*universal)

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE: Luke 4:1-13 (N.T. pg. 61)

Children's Story Delia Zelany

ANTHEM "His Eye Is On The Sparrow" Charles Gabriel

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SERMON: "Temptations in the Wilderness"

Rev. Dr. Glen Misick

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*RESPONSE HYMN #276 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

INVITATION TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CARRYING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

*CLOSING HYMN #420 “God of Grace and God of Glory”

*BENEDICTION

MUSICAL POSTLUDE (A QUIET TIME OF REFLECTION)

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

+++WE ENTER TO WORSHIP; WE LEAVE TO SERVE!!!

*Please stand if able

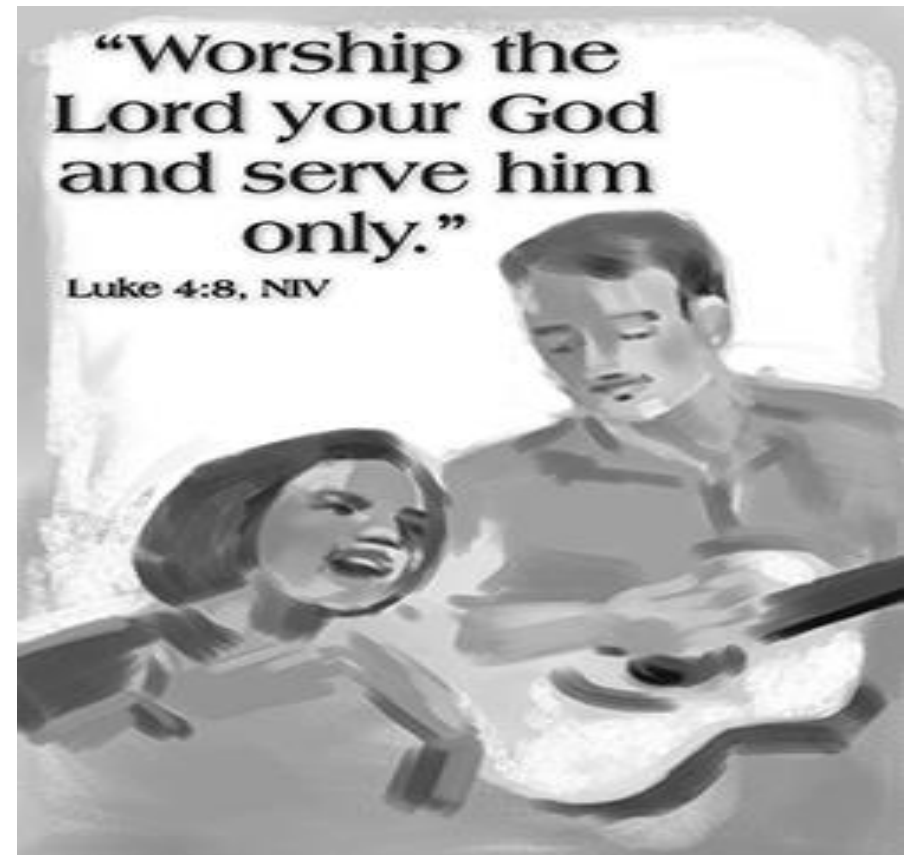
First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

Rev. Dr. Glen Misick

March 9, 2025



“Temptations in the Wilderness”

Prayers for those with long-term concerns

We ask that these friends have God in their lives, that they and their families feel His loving presence, and comfort during their continued struggles. Updates will be printed as available.

Jennifer Perez – RSD/CRPS, & gastroparesis

Maria - a friend of the Knotts and Haggerty families; she is in an acute care facility for traumatic brain injury.

Friends and Loved Ones in the Service and their Families

STATESIDE

Robert L. Gillis – invasive cardiovascular technologist in the US Navy and stationed at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington DC, grandson of Barbara & Bill Morgan.

Lauren Hansen-Salmond –Stephanie & Charlie Kurowsky’s niece

Jeffrey Hansen –Stephanie & Charlie Kurowsky’s nephew

OVERSEAS

Daniel Hedner – deployed to Japan – Jake & Carolyn Stockl’s nephew

Steven Stockl – deployed to Iraq – Jake & Carolyn Stockl’s nephew

The children and youth in our congregation and our youth ministry
Racial equality reconciliation in Woodbridge Township and our nation.

Our ministry partners –

Christian Appalachian Project, Kentucky

International Justice Mission, Washington DC

Mr. Matt Barany Jr., who serves with Second Level Ministry

Navajo Ministries

Salvation Army of Perth Amboy, NJ

Saint Jude’s Children’s Hospital of Memphis, Tennessee

Walter Hoving Home

World Vision

Prayer Concerns and Praises

March 9, 2025

The Prayer Chain - provides immediate prayer for *critical and emergency situations*. All other needs will be taken care of through the prayer list. To place someone on the prayer chain call Millie Knotts at 732-382-9391.

The Prayer List - provides opportunities to share prayer within our church family. Prayer requests will be published for up to 6 weeks unless updated. To add someone to this list call the church office at 732-634-1631.

(Note: Please be sure the person you are adding to this list has given his or her permission to do so).

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people”

Ephesians 6:18



New Joys and Concerns

2nd Week

Prayers for Pauline's son, Raymond, who is receiving chemo.
Prayers for Robbie.
Prayers for Carolyn.
Prayers for Bobby, Carolyn's oldest son.
Prayers for Katie Rooney who is undergoing chemo.

3rd Week

4th Week

5th Week

6th Week

Prayers for Joan who is in assisted living.
Prayers for Reuben who is recuperating from surgery.

Prayers and Sympathies

SHUT-INS

Please continue to keep in your prayers those members who are unable to join us for worship on Sundays.

Health and Healing



The mission of First Presbyterian Church is to grow in Christ and make Him known. This is based on John 15:5: "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches, apart from me you can do nothing." The Holy Spirit strengthens us to:

1. **Connect** to the vine,
2. **Grow** to maturity,
3. **Share** the fruit

Sermon Notes

Sunday:

Preacher:

Sermon Topic/Theme:

Scripture:

Point # 1:

Point # 2

Point # 3

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP THIS MORNING. WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE
HERE! WE BELIEVE YOU ARE HERE FOR A DIVINE PURPOSE.
LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN SERVE YOU TODAY!**

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

SUNDAY, March 9, 2025

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Guest Musician-Elliot Bernard)
Live Stream–Facebook

MONDAY, March 10, 2025

TUESDAY, March 11, 2025

4:30 p.m. Deacons Mtg. – CR

WEDNESDAY, March 12, 2025

5:30 p.m. Soup Suppers/Vespers – JMH

6:30 p.m. Bible Study – On-Line Zoom (ON HOLD UNTIL 4/16)

THURSDAY, March 13, 2025

8:00 p.m. Prayer Gathering – Dial In
(425) 436-6302 then enter code 773724#.

FRIDAY, March 14, 2025

SATURDAY, March 15, 2025

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

SUNDAY, March 16, 2025

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Guest Minister-Rev. Dr. Ken Macari)
Live Stream–Facebook

The PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT for 2025 is \$40.00

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OR SHARE

CHANCEL FLOWER AVAILABILITY – The following dates are open 3/16, 3/23, 4/6, 4/13, 4/20, & 4/27. Please make reservations through the church office. The cost is \$30.00 for two arrangements and must be paid in advance.

PRAYER GATHERING – is every **Thursday** evening at 8:00 pm. Dial (425) 436-6302 then enter code 773724#. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Kosakowski at 908-930-3628.

WORSHIP SERVICE LIVE STREAM – via Facebook every Sunday at 10:00 am. We hope you will join us online if you will not be attending church. Please tell your friends, especially shut ins.

BULLETINS – are now on our website.

SIT AND KNIT (and CROCHET) – is on **Saturdays** from 9:30am to 11:00am in the Sanctuary's Choir Room. Bring your projects, a friend, and any patterns you would like to share or may need help with.

BIBLE STUDY – is on hold for Lent until 4/16.

SOUP SUPPER & VESPERS – beginning 3/12th through 4/9th in Jacob Morgan Hall at 5:30pm. See the bulletin flyer for details.

EASTER LILIES – order forms are in the bulletin. Please have all orders placed and paid by Tuesday, 4/8.

GUEST MUSICIAN – today is Elliott Bernard. Pianist and educator Elliot Bernard first cultivated his interest in music at a local studio in his hometown of Leesburg, Virginia. During high school, Bernard became involved with and mentored by the veteran military musicians of the Washington, D.C. area, performing at venues such as the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the 2018 Jazz Education Network Conference in Dallas, Texas. Bernard recently completed his undergraduate studies as a jazz piano performance major at William Paterson University where he studied with pianists Bill Charlap, Kevin Hays, Aaron Diehl, Geoff Keezer, and Mike LeDonne. In 2022, he was invited to Washington, D.C. to audition for the United States Navy Commodores, where he was selected as a finalist. Now a resident of New Jersey, Bernard performs and teaches piano in the greater New York metropolitan area.

GUEST MINISTER – for 03/16 is Rev. Dr. Ken Macari. Reverend Macari is an honorably retired minister of the Presbytery Northeast New Jersey. He earned both a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Gordon-Conwell Seminary

in MA. He has served churches in his native Philadelphia, PA, Buffalo, NY, and, most recently, at Community Presbyterian, Edison. Ken now currently volunteers at the Fanwood Church where his wife, Linda, serves on session. He regularly serves as a pulpit supply throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The **PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT** for 2025 is \$40.00.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to our Heat and Air Conditioning Fund. There are labeled envelopes on the table in the back of the Sanctuary that can be placed in the collection plate or dropped off at the church office. If you choose to donate another way, please be sure to include 'Heat and Air Conditioning Fund.' We are making great strides in phase one of our Capital fundraising campaign, please help keep this momentum going! Your donation is greatly appreciated!

-Sandy Kosakowski

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP SERVICE!

Visitors, we welcome you to this morning's time of worship. If you are looking for a church home or would like to explore the meaning of membership at Avenel Presbyterian Church, please ask an usher or the worship assistant.

Pastor	Rev. Glen C. Misick	gmisick@gmail.com
William Gorman	Music Director	williamgormanmusic@gmail.com
Michael Peterson	Sexton	avenelpres@gmail.com
Belinda Kerchner	SS Superintendent	For 2025
Linda Vassallo	Church Office	(732) 634-1631
Hanna Pallitto	Webmaster	hannapallitto@gmail.com
	Church Email	avenelpres@gmail.com
	Church Website	avenelpresbyterianchurch.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday – Friday 8:30am – 1:30pm

Scripture for Sunday, March 16

Luke 9:28-36



Film Discussion



Wednesday, March 12th through
Wednesday, April 9th
Jacob Morgan Hall
Soup is served @ 5:30
Film & discussion begins @ 6:15



Every year the church offers Easter Lilies to members and friends of the congregation to remember or honor a loved one. If you would like to place an order for a plant(s), please fill out the form below and return it to the church office at 621 E. Woodbridge Avenue, Avenel, NJ, 07001, with your check made payable to the First Presbyterian Church of Avenel. Each plant is \$11.00.

Orders are due no later than Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Plants may be taken by those who donated them after the 10:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service. Any remaining plants will be distributed to those families and friends who have lost loved ones this past year.

Please Print Clearly

Your Name(s) _____

Phone Number: _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Quantity _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____
