

March 16, 2025
10:00 a.m.
2nd Sunday in Lent

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Belinda Kerchner

THE INTROIT "Here I Am To Worship" Tim Hughes

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

You have set Your glory above the heavens

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,

what are human beings that You care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels

and crowned them with glory and honor.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION Rev. Dr. Ken Macari

OPENING HYMN #263 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Triune God, we confess that we fail to live up to our calling to proclaim Your Gospel in word and deed. We are quick to speak when we ought to listen and are silent when it is time to speak. We too often fail to trust in Your Spirit's guidance. Forgive our foolish ways! Strengthen us daily to follow Christ's way in this world. Through Your Spirit, give us the grace to fulfill our common calling. This we ask through the cleansing Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.....(silence for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Rev. Dr. Ken Macari
Rejoice in this Good News! By grace we have been saved through faith, and this is not of our own doing. In the name of the Triune God, we pray.

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 9:28-36 (N.T. pgs. 69-70)

ANTHEM "Above All" Michael W. Smith

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SERMON: "Surrounded by Your Glory"
Rev. Dr. Ken Macari

SEALING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*RESPONSE HYMN #73 "Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory"

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 #144 "Allelulia! Sing to Jesus!"

*BENEDICTION

MUSICAL POSTLUDE (A QUIET TIME OF REFLECTION)

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

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

*Please stand if able

Rev. Dr. Kenneth J. Macari Bio:

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Macari is an honorably retired member of the Presbytery of Northern New Jersey. He has both a Masters of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Gordon-Conwell Seminary in Massachusetts. Ken served churches in his hometown of Philadelphia, PA, Buffalo, NY and then in Edison, NJ. Since 2016, he has served as the voluntary mission pastor and briefly as the temporary pastor at Fanwood Church. He occasionally serves as pulpit supply throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania. His wife, Linda, serves on the Fanwood session and is also a pulpit supply.

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

621 East Woodbridge Avenue

Avenel, NJ 07001

Rev. Dr. Ken Macari

March 16, 2025



"Surrounded by Your Glory"

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 16, 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

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

2nd Week

3rd 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.

4th Week

5th Week

6th Week

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 16, 2025

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

MONDAY, March 17, 2025

TUESDAY, March 18, 2025

6:30 p.m. Session Mtg. – On-Line Via Zoom

WEDNESDAY, March 19, 2025

5:30 p.m. Soup Suppers/Vespers – JMH

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

THURSDAY, March 20, 2025

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

FRIDAY, March 21, 2025

12:00 p.m. Wrestling-N-Wrecovery – GYM

SATURDAY, March 22, 2025

9:30 a.m. Sit & Knit (Crochet) – CR

SUNDAY, March 23, 2025

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
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 3/23, 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 – began 3/12th and will continue 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.

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.

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday – Friday 8:30am – 1:30pm

Scripture for Sunday, March 23

Isaiah 55:1-9

Luke 13:31-35



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: _____

Woodrow Wilson's Prayer for America

Almighty God, Ruler of all the peoples of the earth, forgive our shortcomings as a nation, purify our hearts to see and love the truth, give wisdom to our leaders, and steadfastness to our people, and bring us at last to that fair city of peace whose foundations are mercy, justice, and goodwill, of which you are the designer and builder; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

John Calvin's Perspectives for Prayer:

Perspective # 1: Pray from a sincere sense of want and with recognition of your insufficiency.

Perspective # 2 Pray without confidence in yourself and humbly plead for pardon.

Perspective # 3 Pray with confident hope in God.

Perspective # 4 Pray with reverence in Jesus' name through presence and power of Holy Spirit