

First Presbyterian Church of Rumson, NJ



the good news is..

**so good, it catches
us by surprise**

Our Mission Statement - "We, the First Presbyterian Church of Rumson, are called by God to be a spiritual and visible presence by living out our faith and sharing our gifts among God's people."

First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 2026 @ 9:45AM
Assemble In God's Name

PRELUDE “*Melody*” by Flor Peters

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

INTROIT “*Thou Art Worthy*” by Pauline Michael Mills

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: *The good news of the gospel is:*

Many: **manna in the desert,**
 water turned into wine,
 love after loss,
 forgiveness after pain.

One: *The good news of the gospel is:*

Many: **release for the captive,**
 hope for the hopeless,
 mourning turned to dancing,
 and strangers turned to friends.

One: *So come.*

There’s no time to waste!

This surprising good news is here for you.

Many: **Let us worship this good-news God.**

***HYMN #744 “*Arise, Your Light Is Come*” FESTAL SONG**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious. We have to pray on our knees without ceasing. We have to check our wiggles and our questions

at the door. But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed— unruly and untamed. You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant. And all of a sudden, we wonder: Can we be like that mustard seed? Can we be faithful and unruly? Can we be playful and curious? Can we be messy and still be yours? We know the answer already. The Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course. Forgive our doubt. Pull us closer into your embrace. With faith like a mustard seed, we pray.

TIME OF SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION
ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***GLORIA PATRI (#581)**

**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.**

***THE PEACE**

*You are invited to exchange the peace of Christ, greeting each other
with the words below.*

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Listen for God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST GOSPEL READING Matthew 13:31-32 (pg. 17 NT)

SECOND GOSPEL READING John 2:1-11 (pg. 113 NT)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

SERMON “*The Good News is so Good... it Catches us by Surprise*” Dr.
Whitney S. Bayer

***HYMN #658 “God Is So Good” GOD IS SO GOOD**

Respond to God

WE GIVE OUR OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “*Hymn of Promise*” by Natalie Sleeth

***THE DOXOLOGY (#607)**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit ever more;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Go in God's Name

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

You are invited to raise your hand if you have a joy or concern to share aloud.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

... (Unison) **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**

***HYMN #265 “*Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*” DUKE STREET**

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “*Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace*” LAND OF REST

**You are invited to rise in body or in spirit.*

*# Indicates song in **Glory to God (The Presbyterian Hymnal)***

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Portions of the liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed

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