

# First Presbyterian Church of Rumson, NJ



**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."

# *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

*March 22, 2026 @ 9:45AM*

## *Assemble In God's Name*

PRELUDE “*Pastorale*” ..... by Flor Peters

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **RINGING OF THE BELL**

INTROIT “*Here Comes the Sun*” ..... by George Harrison  
~ *Offered by John Garth* ~

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*One:*        *Welcome to the weary and the worn.*

**Many:**      **Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.**

*One:*        *Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.*

**Many:**      **Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.**

*One:*        *Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.*

**Many:**      **Welcome to those hungry for justice and those desperate for mercy.**

*One:*        *Welcome to the sinners and the saints.*

**Many:**      **This is God’s house.**

*One:*        *You can make yourself at home here.*

**Many:**      **Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God!**

**\*HYMN #620 “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven” (vs.1-3) ..... LAUDA  
ANIMA**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, we love to live our lives by the rules. We love clear answers. We love right and wrong. We love swift justice. We love to pick up stones, but you show us another way. You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation. You prioritize mercy over legality. You prioritize people**

**over tradition. You prioritize love over everything. Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters. Soften our hearts. Root us in mercy, justice, and love. With hope for a better tomorrow, 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 ..... John 8:2-11 (pg. 122 NT)**

**SECOND GOSPEL READING ..... Matthew 23:23 (pg. 31 NT)**

**One:**        *This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Many:**       **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON “The Good News is...Rooted in Justice, Mercy, and Faithfulness”  
Dr. Whitney S. Bayer**

**CONTEMPORARY HYMN “Shower the People” (see insert) .. by James  
Taylor**

***Respond to God***

**WE GIVE OUR OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM “God So Loved the World” ..... by Ken Medema**

**\*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 #100 “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout” (vs. 1-2) STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN**

**CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE “O Word of God Incarnate” ..... MUNICH**

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

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

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