



The Protestant Community Church

"Cathedral of the Woods"

100 Stokes Road, Medford Lakes, New Jersey 08055

Phone: (609) 654-4220 Website: www.protestantcommunitychurch.org

An inclusive, ecumenical faith community purposefully seeking to be caring, faithful disciples of Jesus Christ through worship, study, prayer, and Christian service.

10:00 - March 22, 2026 - Fifth Sunday in Lent †

Welcome & Announcements

Members, friends, and guests are invited to sign the pew pad found at the end of the pew. We also invite you to share any joys or concerns, noting them on the prayer cards which will be collected during the offering.

Prelude "Prelude on Londonderry Air" Ashdown

Introit "The Lord is in His Holy Temple"

Call to Worship

(Liturgist/Congregation)

Welcome to the weary and the worn.

Welcome to the wiggly and eager.

Welcome to the skeptical and seeking.

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

Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.

Welcome those hungry for justice and those desperate for mercy.

Welcome to the sinners and the saints.

This is God's house.

You can make yourself at home here.

Let us worship our just, merciful, and the faithful God!

Meditation

***Hymn** "Lift High the Cross"

#415

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we have learned in church and in society to live our lives by the rules. We long for clear answers. We learn right and wrong. We want swift justice. We are quick to pick up stones, but You show us another way. You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation. You prioritize mercy over the law. You prioritize people over tradition. You prioritize love over everything. Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters. Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to You. Forgive us. Soften our hearts. Root us in mercy, justice and love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance

***Gloria Patri #705**

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.

Children's Message

Sunday School Dismissal

Parents are to pick up their children following the worship service, upstairs in the Todd Building, and are welcome to join the children in the closing time of meditation.

Passing of the Peace

First Reading

John 8:2-11

Early in the morning He came again to the temple. All the people came to Him, and He sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test Him, so that they might have some charge to bring against Him. Jesus bent down and wrote with His finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning Him, He straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again He bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before Him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

Anthem "Sacred Head Now Wounded" J.S. Bach

Second Reading Matthew 23:23

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel!

***Hymn** "Were You There" #192

Sermon "The Good News Is...rooted in justice, mercy and faithfulness."
Rev Keith Reed

Offertory "Rondo" Young

***Presentation of Gifts and Doxology** #706

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

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, forever. Amen.

***Hymn** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" #186

***Benediction** "May the Lord" R. Rodgers

***Response** "Irish Blessing"

Postlude "Lift High the Cross" Smith

*The congregation may stand

[Music by: Organist - Sandy Ritter; Cathedral Choir Director - Katie Teall]

† PRAYERS OF CONCERN †

Those placed on the prayer list will remain on the list for one month unless specified otherwise. If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please secure permission prior to calling the church office or emailing in to kim@protestantcommunitychurch.org

Adam	Evelyn Herzog	Robey family
Ann	Tricia Irwin	Ruch family
Steven Barnes	Kara	Evan Schwoeri
Barnett family	Klausner family	Singh family
Lorrie Breslin	Koontz family	Smalfus family
Chamberlain family	Douglas Mathis	Bill Steffan
Chris	Floss Mikle	Susan
Carole Cutry	Nelson family	JoAnn Tate
Dario	Patrick	Ed Tucker
Lydia Gibson	Angie Pettis	Paul Vahlstrom
Andria Gross & family	Rese Ritter	Vinnie

Please remember in your prayers those serving in our military services and their families. Please pray for the families separated, recovering from disasters, or faced with life altering decisions, and pray for peace, hope, and healing in the world. ♥

VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS SUNDAY

Ushers: Lynda Miller & Lee Bealuk **Reader:** Linda Hoffman
Fellowship Hour Host: Carillon Choir

✿ ALTAR FLOWERS ✿

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our Mom, Dad, Constantine, given by Reggie, Ulysses and Lavinia Wu.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE - 3/15/26

8:00 Worship Service - 30
10:00 Worship Service - 116
Online - 14

ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTION

Please use the link below or the QR code if you would like to send an offering electronically:



www.zeffy.com/donation-form/protestant-community-church