



## First Presbyterian Church of Ridgewood NJ

*We are a welcoming community formed in Christ, committed to sharing his love with others – with feet that carry us out into the world, with hands that serve, and with hearts in fellowship and faith.*  
– First Presbyterian Church Mission Statement, adopted October 2018



### THE THIRD SUNDAY *in* LENT SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025

Watch live: <https://www.youtube.com/live/ZSpPGQqtzVM>

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#### PRELUDE

*Seek Ye First* – setting by Douglas E. Wagner

Isaiah 55:6-11

Linda Sweetman Waters, Organ

WELCOME *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ Rev. Bruce Ballantine

MINUTE *for* MINISTRY – Rick Friedl

*One Great Hour of Sharing ~ Fish & Chips Fundraiser*

#### CALL *to* WORSHIP

Is anyone thirsty? **Come and drink!**

Is anyone hungry?

**Enjoy the finest food at the table of the Lord!**

What more do we need?

**The Lord has made an everlasting covenant and promised unfailing love.**

Let us worship God.

\*HYMN 281 - *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

#### PRAYER *of* CONFESSION

**Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.**

#### SILENT CONFESSION

#### ASSURANCE *of* FORGIVENESS

\*HYMN 579 – *Gloria Patri*

\*PASSING *of the* PEACE

#### MUSICAL OFFERING

*I'd Rather Have Jesus* - George Beverly Shea, arr. Joseph M. Martin

The Chancel Choir

Dr. Edward Schmiedecke, Director

*Give me Jesus, give me Jesus. You can have all this world. Give me Jesus. I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold. I'd rather be His than have riches untold. I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands. I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand, than to be the king of a vast domain, or be held in sin's dread sway. I'd rather have Jesus than anything this world affords today. He's fairer than lilies of rarest bloom. He's sweeter than honey from out of the comb. He's all that my hungering spirit needs. I'd rather have Jesus and let Him lead, than to be the king of a vast domain, or be held in sin's dread sway. I'd rather have Jesus than anything this world affords today. Give me Jesus, give me Jesus. You can have all this world. Give me Jesus.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*MaryEllen Castaldo, Director of Children & Family Ministries*

*Following the Children's Message, children and youth are invited to attend Sunday School.*

OLD TESTAMENT READING ~ Maddie Eliya

Isaiah 55:1-9

PSALTER READING ~ Luke Eliya

Psalm 63:1-8

SERMON

*Food and Drink for the Soul* – Rev. Bruce Ballantine

PRAYERS *of the PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER*

Let us have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus as we pray for the world he came to save, saying:

Have mercy, O God. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church. Let us be an oasis in the desert – a spring of water for all who thirst,  
an abundant feast for all who hunger.

*Silent Prayer*

Have mercy, O God. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world. By your everlasting covenant,  
embrace all the nations of this earth with your steadfast, saving love.

*Silent Prayer*

Have mercy, O God. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our communities. Save those who are perishing.  
Let new life flourish among us and help us to bear good fruit.

*Silent Prayer*

Have mercy, O God. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for loved ones. Show your great faithfulness  
to those who are sick or suffering – whether in body, mind or spirit.  
Strengthen them and make them whole.

*Silent Prayer*

Have mercy, O God. **Hear our prayer.**

As we pour out our hearts in prayer,  
O God, lead us to pour out our lives in service to you – ever seeking your will,  
ever following your way; all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

And now we are bold to pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**



 Tithe.ly

CALL to OFFERING

You may make your offering via Tithe.ly,  
place an offering in the plate as it is passed,  
or mail a check to the church office. Thank you!



 Tithe.ly

## OFFERTORY DUET

*Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)* - Chris Tomlin & Louie Giglio, arr. Joel Raney

Based on the hymn tune *New Britain*

Carol Schmiedecke, Mezzo-Soprano

Edward Schmiedecke – Baritone

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see. Now I see! 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed! My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me, and like a flood, his mercy reigns; unending love, amazing grace. The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures; he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures. My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me, and like a flood, his mercy reigns; unending love, amazing grace.*

\*DOXOLOGY – Hymn 592

\*PRAYER of DEDICATION

\*HYMN 298 - *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune *Ellacombe* – Michael Burkhardt

Linda Sweetman Waters, Organ

CHANCEL FLOWERS

*Chancel Flowers are given by Marjorie Vanacore*

*in loving memory of her sister, Judith, and husband, Richard, to celebrate their March birthdays.*

\*Please stand if you are able.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS for SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 55:1-9

<sup>1</sup>Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. <sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. <sup>6</sup>Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. <sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

PSALTER READING

Psalms 63:1-8

<sup>1</sup>O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. <sup>2</sup>So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. <sup>3</sup>Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. <sup>4</sup>So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name. <sup>5</sup>My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips <sup>6</sup>when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. <sup>8</sup>My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

## 281 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.7

William Williams, 1745

Stanza 1 trans. Peter Williams, 1771

Stanzas 2-3 trans. William Williams, 1772

John Hughes, 1907

1. Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, Pil - grim through this  
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, Whence the heal - ing  
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but Thou art might - y; Hold me  
 stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar Lead me  
 fears sub - side; Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, Land me

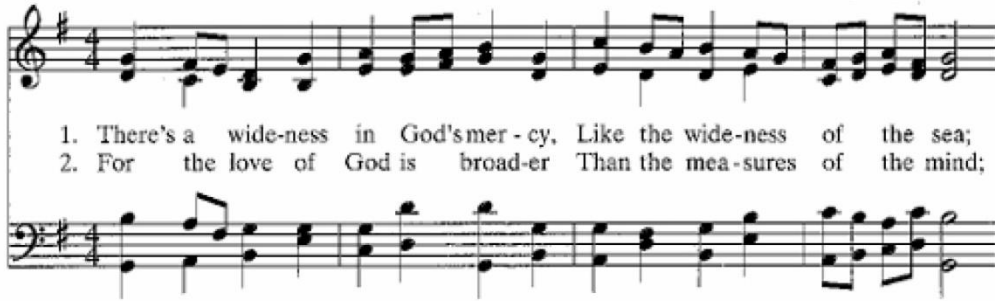
with Thy power - ful hand; Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
 all my jour - ney through; Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,  
 safe on Ca - naan's side; Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

Feed me till I want no more, Feed me till I want no more.  
 Be Thou still my strength and shield, Be Thou still my strength and shield.  
 I will ev - er give to Thee, I will ev - er give to Thee.

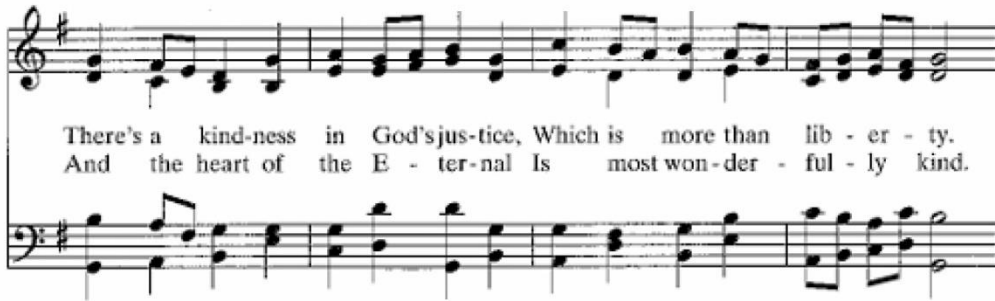
## 298 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7 D

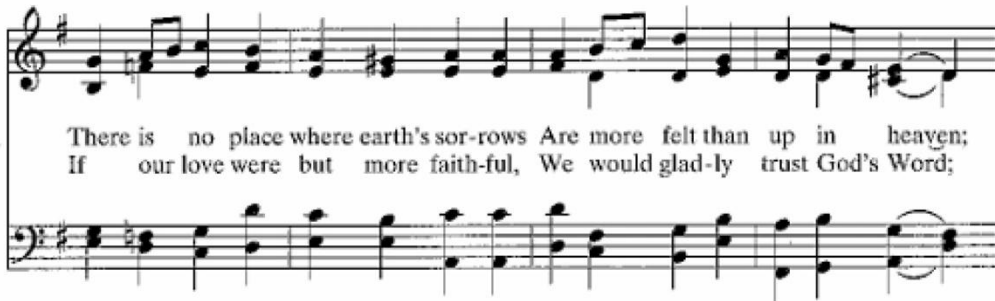
Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

Dutch melody  
Arr. Julius Röntgen (1855-1933)


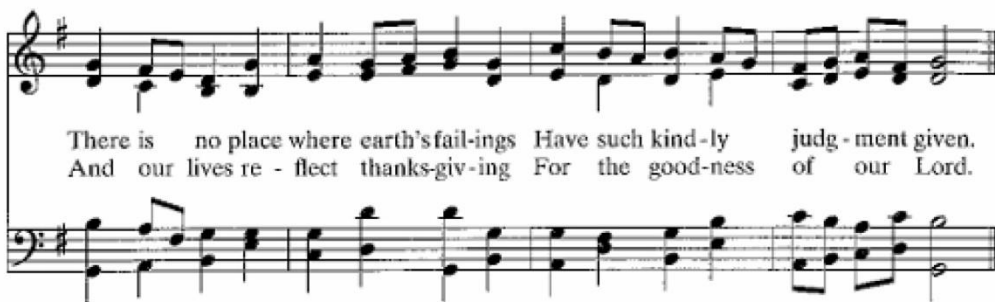
1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, Like the wide-ness of the sea;  
2. For the love of God is broad-er Than the mea-sures of the mind;



There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, Which is more than lib - er - ty.  
And the heart of the E - ter-nal Is most won-der - ful - ly kind.



There is no place where earth's sor-rows Are more felt than up in heaven;  
If our love were but more faith-ful, We would glad-ly trust God's Word;



There is no place where earth's fail-ings Have such kind-ly judg - ment given.  
And our lives re - flect thanks-giv-ing For the good-ness of our Lord.