

WELCOME TO
THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF EAST HAMPTON



-SERVICE OF THE WORD-

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 7, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.

PASTOR'S WELCOME



Welcome to the First Presbyterian Church of East Hampton – an active worshipping community since 1648. While the world has changed greatly in our 376 year history, this community of faith has had the same mission since day one: to love God and our neighbor. We embody this mission through faith in action. Through feeding programs, bible studies, youth events, and service trips – we create space for God to work among us. We believe that who you are is a part of what you believe. That faith is a journey, not a destination. And that asking questions, having doubts, and being curious is part of living an authentic faith. God's call requires our full self: heart, soul, body, and mind.

I joined FPCEH as its pastor in January 2024. As a new resident of the East End, I've enjoyed soaking in the local culture and history. I'm a fan of gardening, movies, music, and my wife Alyson. When she isn't playing with our dog Sam, she serves as an oncology nurse. I look forward to getting to know everyone who comes through our doors.

Church Staff

The Rev. Jon D. Rodriguez, *Minister*

Jane Hastay, *Director of Music*

June Lester, *Church Administrator*

The Rev. Dr. John Ames. & The Rev. Dr. Fred Schulz,
Pastors Emeriti

120 Main Street, East Hampton, NY 11937
fpceh.org

Gathering in God's Name

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Peace be with you. Jesus stands among us.

People: Peace be with you. The risen Lord is here.

Pastor: How very good and pleasant it is,

People: When the people of God live in unity.

Pastor: In the name of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: Let us worship God.

(* Please rise in body or in spirit. For hymns, stand when the choir stands.)

* HYMN 255

O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing

O Filii et Filiae

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us of our sins. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

(Silence for personal reflection)

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Franz Schubert

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.
People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, thanks be to God.

*** RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

Gloria (Taizé)



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

SUMMARY OF GOD'S LAW

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

*** GLORIA PATRI**



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the
Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -
gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,
world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Proclaiming God's Word

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Acts 4:32-35

³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

EPISTLE LESSON

1 John 1:1-2:2

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

² My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:19-31

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON

A Gospel of the Senses

Responding to God with Thanksgiving

* HYMN 306

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Dennis

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: ...in your mercy,

People: Lord, hear our 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.
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 THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

For the Beauty of the Earth

arr. Robert Shaw

*For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies.*

*For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild*

*For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,*

*For yourself, best gift divine,
to the world so freely given,
agent of God's grand design:
peace on earth and joy in heaven*

* DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures
here be-low; praise him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise
Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God accept these gifts, and with them our lives, to be used
in your service; that they may be a living and holy sacrifice, to the
glory of your name. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

* HYMN 268

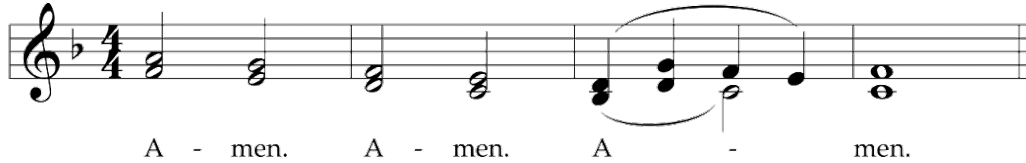
Crown Him With Many Crowns

Diademata

* BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Danish Amen



POSTLUDE

Worship Leaders

<i>Minister:</i>	The Rev. Jon D. Rodriguez
<i>Music:</i>	Jane Hastay, Chancel Choir
<i>Elder of the Month:</i>	Andrea Cooper
<i>Deacon of the Month:</i>	Christine Martin
<i>Reader:</i>	John Halsey
<i>Ushers:</i>	Victor & Lois Vecchio, Linda Child, Dana Lester

Session

Moderator: The Rev. Jon D. Rodriguez
Clerk: Mary Siska
Members: Class of 2024: Kim Borsack, David Filer, Michelle Grant, Paul Vogel; **Class of 2025:** Andrea Cooper, Barbara D'Andrea, Harriet Edwards, Pember Edwards; **Class of 2026:** Bruce Siska, Barbara Borsack, David Cataletto, Wendy Mott

Board of Deacons

Co-Moderators: Nancy Pearson & Joy Anne Dixon
Members: Class of 2024: Kristine Eberhart, Christine Martin, Nancy Pearson; **Class of 2025:** Fran Chapman, Joy Anne Dixon, Suzanne Nicoletti; **Class of 2026:** Greg Eberhart, Gabby Miller, Heddie Edwards, Leslie Clarke

The Life of the Church

Please pray for the following friends: Lee Andrews, Ian Birla, Liz Dayton, Heddie Edwards, Robert Fariel, Gordon Grant, Kayla Kearney, Dana Lester, Gus Lockwood, Jake Ogden, Bill Stafford, Jane Talmage, Jeff Yusko, Our Sister Church in Guines, Cuba and their pastor & his family.

A **New Member's Class** will be held in the Session House following worship on April 21. This class is for anyone who wants to learn more about the church's history, beliefs, and mission. Please RSVP to Pastor Jon (jdr@fpceh.org) to reserve your spot and ensure there is enough food for everyone.

A **Concert celebrating Spring + Earth Day** will take place in the sanctuary on April 21 at 3pm. The program will be performed by pianist Beyza Yazgan, and will include a stunning 3-part work by composer Brian Field called "Three Passions for a Tortured Planet." The program will also include repertoire to celebrate Spring and Earth Day, including "Native Planting Song" by Jean Sibelius, "Woodlark" by Oliver Messiaen, "Reflections in the Water" by Claude Debussy, and more. Not only will the concert be a thrilling performance by our young virtuoso guest pianist, but it will be a benefit to raise money for Matthew Lester's pollinator garden at the Farm Museum. We hope to raise funds and recruit volunteers to help the garden thrive.

East Hampton Food Pantry serves our community by collecting food and distributing it to those in need. This week's item of the week is canned meat.

Flower Donations | If you would like to donate flowers for the communion table and/or pedestals in honor or in memory of a loved one please e-mail Summer Borsack at summerborsack@gmail.com or call the church office. Please let us know if the flowers are to be distributed after the service.

The Monday morning prayer group which was formed for the purpose of praying for the Pastor Nominating Committee over a year ago will continue to meet Monday mornings at the Session House at 9 am to spend time in prayer for the church and the needs of the congregation. All are welcome – please feel free to drop in anytime!

This Week at FPC

Sunday, April 7

9 am | Sunday School – Session House
10 am | Worship & Communion – Sanctuary
4 pm | Porch Musicians – Session House

Monday, April 8

9 am | Prayer Group – Session House
12:30 | Al-Anon – Session House

Tuesday, April 9

7:30 am | Breakfast Club – John Papas
1 pm | Prayer Shawl Knitting Group – Off Site
(contact admin@fpceh.org for more information)

Wednesday, April 10

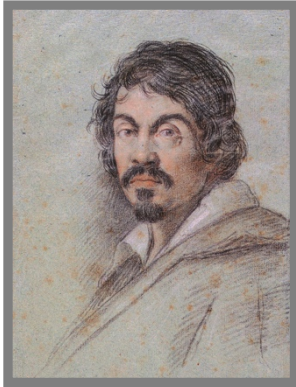
Thursday, April 11

12:30 pm | Al-Anon – Session House
3:30 pm | Chancel Choir rehearsal
5:15 | Mission & Outreach Meeting (All are welcome to join)

Friday, April 12

Saturday, April 13

About the Artist



Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (1573-1610). In 1678 Arrogant, rebellious and a murderer, Caravaggio's short and tempestuous life matched the drama of his works. Characterised by their dramatic, almost theatrical lighting, Caravaggio's paintings were controversial, popular, and hugely influential on succeeding generations of painters all over Europe. Born Michelangelo Merisi, Caravaggio is the name of the artist's home town in Lombardy in northern Italy. In 1592 at the age of 21 he moved to Rome, Italy's artistic centre and an irresistible magnet for young artists keen to study its classical buildings and famous works of art. The first few years were a struggle. He specialised in still lifes of fruits and flowers, and later, half length figures (as in 'The Boy bitten by a Lizard') which he sold on the street. Caravaggio was a fast worker - but liked to play as hard as he worked. According to one of his biographers: "after a fortnight's work he will swagger about for a month or two with his sword at his side and with a servant following him, from one ball-court to the next, ever ready to engage in a fight or argument, with the result that it is most awkward to get along with him". (The sword was illegal - as with guns today, one had to have licence to carry arms.) Caravaggio was arrested repeatedly for, among other things, slashing the cloak of an adversary, throwing a plate of artichokes at a waiter, scarring a guard, and abusing the police.

Caravaggio's technique was as spontaneous as his temper. He painted straight onto the canvas with minimal preparation. Sometimes he abandoned a disappointing composition and painted new work over the top. Much to the horror of his critics, he used ordinary working people with irregular, rough and characterful faces as models for his saints and showed them in recognisably contemporary surroundings.

In 1606 Caravaggio's temper went a step too far. An argument with 'a very polite young man' described variously as over a woman, or a tennis match, escalated into a swordfight. Caravaggio stabbed his rival, and though he probably hadn't intended to kill him, the man died of his wound. Caravaggio chose not to face justice, but leave Rome. He had no doubt that he would quickly obtain a pardon. Caravaggio went to Naples, and then to the island of Malta, an independent sovereignty and home of the Knights of Malta (a religious military order like the Knights Templars). If Caravaggio could become a Knight of Malta, he would be in a better position to seek a papal pardon for the murder. In return for a painting of the Beheading of St John the Baptist, he was granted membership. He loaded his belongings onto a ship but, for some unknown reason, was then arrested and had to buy his way out of jail. By the time he was released, the ship and all his possessions had sailed without him. As he made his way along the coast he fell ill, perhaps with malaria, and a few days later, alone and feverish, he died.

Excerpt – The National Gallery | nationalgallery.org.uk

Cover Art | Caravaggio, Michelangelo Merisi da, 1573-1610. The Incredulity of Saint Thomas, from Art in the Christian Tradition

M e m b e r s h i p

Whether you've been a Presbyterian your entire life or you are still deciding whether church is right for you, you are welcome here. If you are interested in exploring more about Christianity and what it means to follow Jesus, we invite you to join a new member class. Classes are typically held on select Sundays after worship. Contact Pastor Jon for more information – jdr@fpceh.org

G i v i n g

Stewardship is really about discipleship—following Jesus as Lord in every aspect of our daily living. Stewards are those who care for things that belong to another and have been entrusted to them for safe-keeping. Christian stewardship begins with the recognition that everything in our lives comes from and belongs to God and has been given to us for the purpose of not only serving, but more important, glorifying God as we seek to follow Jesus Christ as his faithful disciples. Contact Pastor Jon for more information.

C o m m u n i c a t i o n s

Once a week we distribute our newsletter, *News From the Pews*, to keep our community informed about upcoming events and important information about the life of the church. To sign up, contact the Church Office – admin@fpceh.org

P r a y e r L i s t

Pastoral Care is provided in a variety of ways at FPCEH. Our pastor is available for pastoral conversations when members and friends of the church are struggling with difficult life situations or wrestling with faith questions and dilemmas. The pastor also visits and reaches out to members who are hospitalized, ill or who have suffered a recent loss. If you would like to speak with our pastor, call and make an appointment. He will do his best to see you as soon as possible. Contact the Church Office for more information – admin@fpceh.org

fpceh.org | 120 Main Street, East Hampton, NY 11937