## **Welcome to Prince of Peace!**

## Fourth Sunday in Lent





Whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith, know that you are most welcome here to receive God's goodness, mercy, and love. Welcome to Prince of Peace, a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

#### The Meaning of Lent

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are at the hearts of the Christian gospel, and Good Friday and Easter are two of the most significant celebrations of the Christian year. Lent is a season of preparation, repentance, and contemplation as we anticipate Good Friday and Easter.

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

Our liturgy and sanctuary reflect the somberness of the season: The cross is our focus; there are no altar flowers; the alleluias will not be spoken or sung; and the paraments are purple, which is the color associated with royalty.

#### We Prepare Our Hearts for Worship

God of the covenant, in the glory of the cross your Son embraced the power of death and broke its hold over your people. In this time of repentance, draw all people to yourself, that we who confess Jesus as Lord may put aside the deeds of death and accept the life of your kingdom. Amen.

#### Gather

Prelude Sweet Hour of Prayer

arr. T. Osman

Nightingale Bells

#### Welcome

#### Confession and Forgiveness

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ② one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.
- C Amen.
- P Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

#### Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Holy God,
- C we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.

We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

For all these things and for sins only you know,

forgive us, Lord.

#### Amen.

P Here is a flood of grace:

Out of love for the whole world,

God draws near to us,

breaks every snare of sin,

washes away our wrongs,

C Amen.

Gathering Hymn Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 807

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

#### Greeting

- P The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

#### Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray:

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

#### Word

- L I will bless the Lord at all times; the Lord's praise shall continually be in my mouth (Psalm 34:1).
- C Lord, bless the reading of your word. Make it come alive in our midst.

  Amen.

#### First Reading Numbers 21:4-9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and

live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

- L Word of God, Word of Life.
- C Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22



Psalm 107:19

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,

for God's mercy endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim

that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,

gathering them in from the lands;

from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Some were fools and took rebellious paths;

through their sins they were afflicted. R

They loathed all manner of food

and drew near to death's door.

Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD

and you delivered them from their distress.

You sent forth your word and healed them

and rescued them from the grave.

Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love

and your wonderful works for all people.

Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving

and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy. R

#### Second Reading Ephesians 2:1-10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in

Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

- L Word of God, Word of Life.
- C Thanks be to God.

#### **Gospel Acclamation**



From Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006; Setting II

- P The Holy Gospel according to John the third chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

#### Gospel John 3:14-21

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

[Jesus said:] "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you O, Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 323

God Loved The World

#### Response

#### Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### Prayers

P Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

#### Congregational Response

- P Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- P Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C Amen.

#### Meal

#### Passing of the Peace

- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C And also with you.

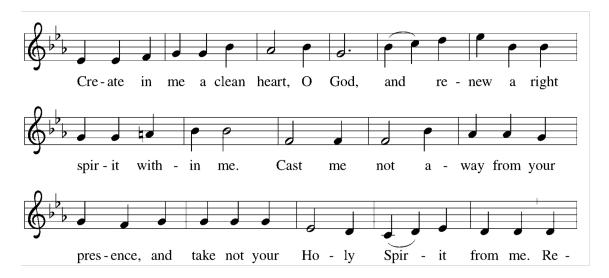
The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of Jesus.

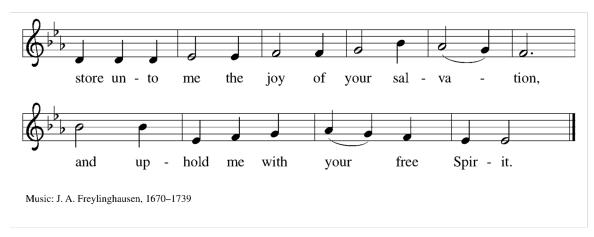
Offertory Anthem

Wondrous Love
Nightingale Bells

arr. D. Edwards

#### Offertory Hymn





#### Offertory Prayer

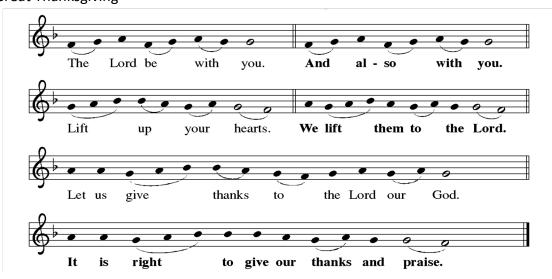
- P Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.

  Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness.

  Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace.

  We pray this in your name.
- C Amen.

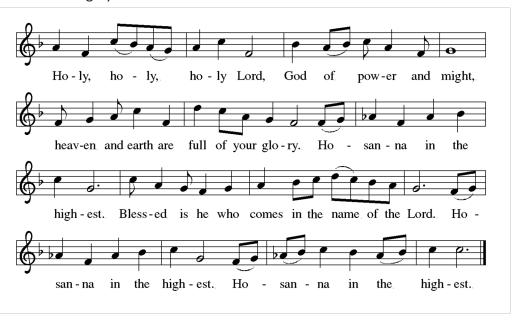
#### **Great Thanksgiving**



From Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006; Setting II

#### **Preface**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



#### Thanksgiving at the Table

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the priceless grace you have bestowed upon us through Jesus Christ, who died upon the tree of Calvary and rose again to make us living branches, drawing our life from him and bearing fruit in all the world. Send your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth and power, to renew our faith as we receive our crucified and risen Lord who comes to us in his body and blood.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

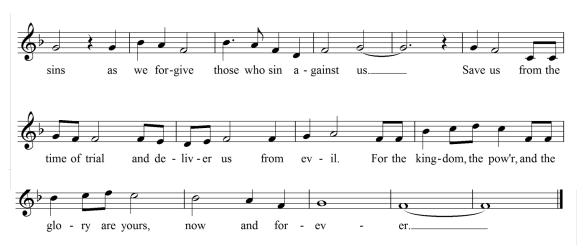
- C Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
- P With this bread and cup, we remember Christ's life among us; his association with outcasts, his eating with sinners, his healing of the sick, his care for the poor.

Send, we pray, your Holy Spirit
upon us and upon this bread and wine,
that we who share this meal
may become a holy communion,
the body of Christ in the world.

C Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

#### Lord's Prayer



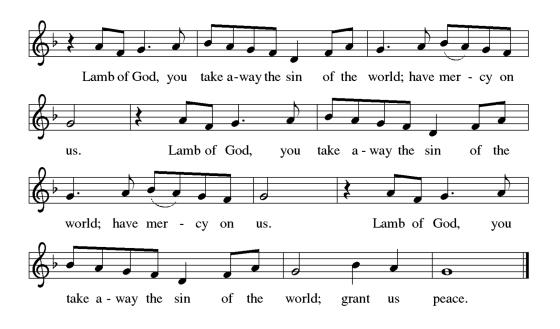


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#### Invitation

- P Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.
- C Amen.

#### Lamb of God



Distribution Hymn Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 779

**Amazing Grace** 

Blessing

Ρ The body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you

and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

**Post-Communion Prayer** 

Р Generous God,

at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,

now make us one loaf to feed the world;

in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C Amen.

#### Sending

#### Announcements and Community Concerns

#### Benediction

Ρ Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage,

And + give you peace.

С Amen. Sending Hymn Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 666 vs 1

What Wondrous Love is This

Segue into

Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 660 vs 4

Lift High The Cross

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Serve in love.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

#### Thank you to all who served today:

Usher/Greeter: Rich Carlson
Andrew Carlson
Lector: Nancy Herrington
Communion Assistant: Sara Manning
Fellowship Hosts: Michelle Conk



#### Palm Sunday – March 24

Reading of the Passion ~ Blessing of the Palms 9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary and Livestream)

#### Maundy Thursday – March 28

7:30 p.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary and Livestream)
Washing of Feet and Stripping of the Altar

#### **Good Friday – March 29**

7:30 p.m. The Seven Last Words of Christ (Sanctuary and Livestream)

#### Holy Saturday - March 30

7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil

#### Easter Sunday - March 31

8:30 a.m. Festival of the Resurrection (Outdoor)
9:30 a.m. Festival of the Resurrection (Sanctuary and Livestream)
10:45 a.m. Easter Brunch

#### Easter Sunday Brunch - March 31

10:45 Easter Brunch (Community Room)

#### **Ministry Opportunities:**

#### **Easter Flower Orders**

Order forms for flowers to adorn the Prince of Peace worship room during Easter are available now in the Gathering Area, and are also available online here: https://popnj.org/announcements/order-form-for-holy-week-easter-palms-flowers/ Orders must be received by April 3rd.

#### Midweek Worship and Soup Supper

This week, Wednesday, March 13th we are at St. Barts. Let Pastor know if you'd like a ride. Soup Supper at 6:30pm, worship at 7:30pm. Wednesday March 20th we return to POP. Sign up for soup on the bulletin board outside the church office.

#### **Adult Forum**

Sara Manning and Pastor Peter will lead the Adult Forum they are calling "Building a Theology of Creation." The class will be based on the book by Debra Rienstra entitled Refugia Faith, Seeking Hidden Shelters, Ordinary Wonders, and the Healing of the Earth. Join us every Sunday in Lent in the double classroom at 10:45am.

#### Art.full Prayer at the House Next Door

During the season of Lent, we find ourselves in an in-between time – between Ash Wednesday and Easter, darkness and light, grief and hope, repentance and redemption. Join Pat Pickard Friday, March 22, as we explore this in-between time using the gifts of contemplation and art. Details can be found on the flier on page 21.

#### **Native Truth Be Told**

On Sunday, April 14 POP's Racial Justice Team is hosting two indigenous women to speak to us at adult forum time, about their powerful personal stories...Lunch Included. For additional details, please see the flier on page 23.

#### **Worship Assistants Needed**

A reminder as a new year begins that we are in need of worship assistants on Sunday mornings: acolytes, lectors, ushers, greeters, and fellowship hosts. Please sign up at: https://bit.ly/pop-sunday-signup. The liturgy is the work of the people. We can't do it without you! Thank you.

#### **Ministry Opportunities ...continued**

#### St. Bart's needs food to distribute to the hungry.

St. Bart's needs non-perishable food to distribute to the hungry in their community. They can use such items as canned fruits, vegetables and meats, pasta, rice, cereal, peanut butter, jelly and the like. Please put donations in the Food Bin outside the white doors near the Community Room at any time. "Monetary donations are appreciated, too. Make checks out to Prince of Peace and earmark for St. Bart's Food pantry." Thank you!

#### LSM/NJ's request for food gift cards and Easter greeting cards

Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey (LSM/NJ) provides food and Easter greeting cards to their constituents and requests that Prince of Peace provide grocery store gift cards and Easter greeting cards (bought or hand-made) to help with this endeavor. Suggested stores: Walmart, ShopRite, Acme, and Target. Cards may be placed in the offering plate or sent to the PoP office at 177 Princeton-Hightstown Road, Princeton Jct., NJ 08550. Greeting cards may be placed in the basket provided in the entry way or left in the office. Deadline for receipt is Sunday, March 17, 2024. Thank you!

#### **Easter Sunday Brunch**

All are welcome to share a bountiful fellowship brunch on Easter Sunday, March 31st. Please join fellow POPer's for a delicious buffet breakfast to be served immediately following the 9:30 service. The bountiful buffet will include pancakes, waffles, egg dishes, bacon, sausage, home fries, ham, salads and more! We invite all who attend to bring breakfast bread or sliced fruit platter to share. Please sign up by March 24th on the poster in the Gathering Area as to the number in your party that will be attending as well as what you will be bringing. All family and friends are welcome! ~ Michelle & Michael Conk

We Remember in Our Prayers...

Our Community, Our Nation, and Our World

The Holy Land and its people All victims of gun violence

#### We Remember in Our Prayers... continued

#### Those recovering from surgery

Lisa Schott Becky Terranova, relative of Stephanie Cuddahy Nathan Resch

#### Those rejoicing in good news

The Clarke Family upon receiving J'den's test results

#### Those who mourn

Russ Lambert, friend of Con Sweeney

#### The Bishop of the ELCA

Elizabeth Eaton, as she takes a leave of absence

#### Those who desire our prayers

Carolyn Grotz Brynn Peterson Andrew Grimm Karlfried Froehlich Ellie Crawford Matthew Rexroad

#### **Family and Friends**

Dorothy S., friend of Carol Balderssari
Gilbert Worth, friend of Nancy Reyes
Linda Hahn, friend of the Winders
Murphy O'Rourke, granddaughter of Jim and Martha Winder
Charlie Winder, Jim Winder's Dad
Ryan Marahaj, friend of Roger Moore
Jim Senyszyn, cousin of John Reyes
Barbara Lehman, friend of Nancy Reyes
John Felipe, friend of Nancy Reyes
Denise Wadams, friend of Nancy Reyes
Lauren Zarrillo, daughter of Liz
Charlotte Rexroad, mother of Martin Rexroad
Shelly Greene, a member of our online community

#### Those who serve in the military

LTCOL Karl Wethe, USMC

#### **This Week at Prince of Peace**

Today: The Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:30am Service of Holy Communion—Sanctuary and Livestream

10:45am Adult Forum; Sara Manning / Pastor Froehlke

12:00pm Church Council (HND)

1:00-3:00pm Korean Baptist Church (Sanctuary)

3:00-8:00pm Cub Scouts

Monday:

3:30-5:00pm Joyful Stitchers (Zoom)

4:30-8:00pm NJ Power Speakers (Rooms 6,7)

5:30-8:30pm Pranavam School of Dance (Community room)

7:00-8:30pm SAA Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday:

4:30-8:00pm NJ Power Speakers (Rooms 2,7 Large Meeting Room)

7:00-830pm Racial Justice Meeting (Zoom)

7:15-8:15pm Pranavam School of Dance (Community room)

Wednesday:

11:30am-1:30pm Christian Focus (Lounge)

4:30-8:00pm NJ Power Speakers (Rooms 2,6.7 Large & Small Meeting Room)

5:00-8:00pm Pranavam School of Dance (Community room) 6:30pm Midweek Soup Supper & Worship at St. Bart's

Thursday:

6:30-9:00pm AA Meeting (Community room)

6:30-8:00pm AA Meeting (Room 2-Informal meeting room)

7:00-8:00pm Nightingale Bells Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

8:00-9:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday:

12:00-1:00pm Prayer Circle (Zoom)

4:00-4:30pm Reconciling in Christ (Zoom)

Saturday:

9-12pm Pranavam School of Dance (Community Room)

12:30-6:00pm Power Speakers, Special Program

Sunday:

9:30am Service of Holy Communion—Sanctuary and Livestream

10:45am Adult Forum—Sara Manning / Pastor Froehlke

1:00-3:00pm Joyful Noise Worship (Sanctuary)

1:00-3:00pm Korean Baptist Church (Community Room)



### Workshop and Retreat Friday, March 22

During the season of Lent we may find ourselves in an "in-between time" — between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday, we are invited to move between darkness and light, grief and hope, repentance and redemption, deep sadness and deep joy. We will spend some time together in reflection, prayer and creative writing as we look into the "in-between times" that ground our spiritual practices as we anticipate Resurrection. This reflection time will be followed by a creative practice of visual art.

Everyone is welcome — there is no requirement for artistic experience or skill. All materials will be provided.

#### The House Next Door

177 Princeton-Hightstown Road \* Princeton Junction NJ 08550

**Cost:** sliding scale suggested \$30 —\$35

Led by Pat Pickard, Spiritual Director + Graphic Designer

Coffee: 8.30, we will begin at 9am

Workshop: 9am to 12pm

Retreat: 1pm to dusk the house and grounds will remain open for prayer, silence

and personal retreat time

For more information and to register, send an email to hnd@popnj.org Registration ends on Tuesday March 19, 2024

\* Parking is available at "the church next door", Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

# NATIVE TRUTH BE TOLD What we weren't taught in school

Can you imagine being taken away from your family as a young child?

Do you know what happened to Native American children who died in boarding school?

Do you understand why some school mascots are offensive?

#### Come hear two Indigenous Women share their personal experiences.

We welcome our presenters from the Coalition of Natives and Allies.



Donna Fann-Boyle (Choctaw/Cherokee)



Kelley Bova (Dakota Sioux)

They will share stories on-

Donna's fight regarding the Native American sports mascot issue,

boarding schools, including a Canadian Residential School and returning remains from the Carlisle School,

how Kelley, who was adopted off the reservation at 3 months old, found her birth family and birth mother in South Dakota.

The presentation will take approximately an hour and a half including time for Q&A.

## Sunday April 14, 2024 10:45 am

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 177 Princeton-HIghtstown Road, Princeton Jct
Hosted by the Racial Justice Team at Prince of Peace

A light lunch will be provided after the presentation. RSVP appreciated - 609-799-1753 or Sign up via SignUpGenius.



## Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Practicing Resurrection With Gratitude and Grace

177 Princeton-Hightstown Road Princeton Junction, NJ 08550 Church Office: 609-799-1753 E-Mail: email@popnj.org Web site: www.popnj.org

Rev. Peter Froehlke, Pastor Office: 609-799-1753 Cell: 908-797-7339 Home: 609-785-5366 Email: pastor@popnj.org

Rev. Dale Selover, Director of the House Next Door Cell: 908-797-7336 Email: hnd@popnj.org Website: www.housenextdoornj.org

Dr. R. Douglas Helvering, Minister of Music Victoria Chow, Church Musician Sherri Daniels, Office Manager Sara Manning, Seminarian