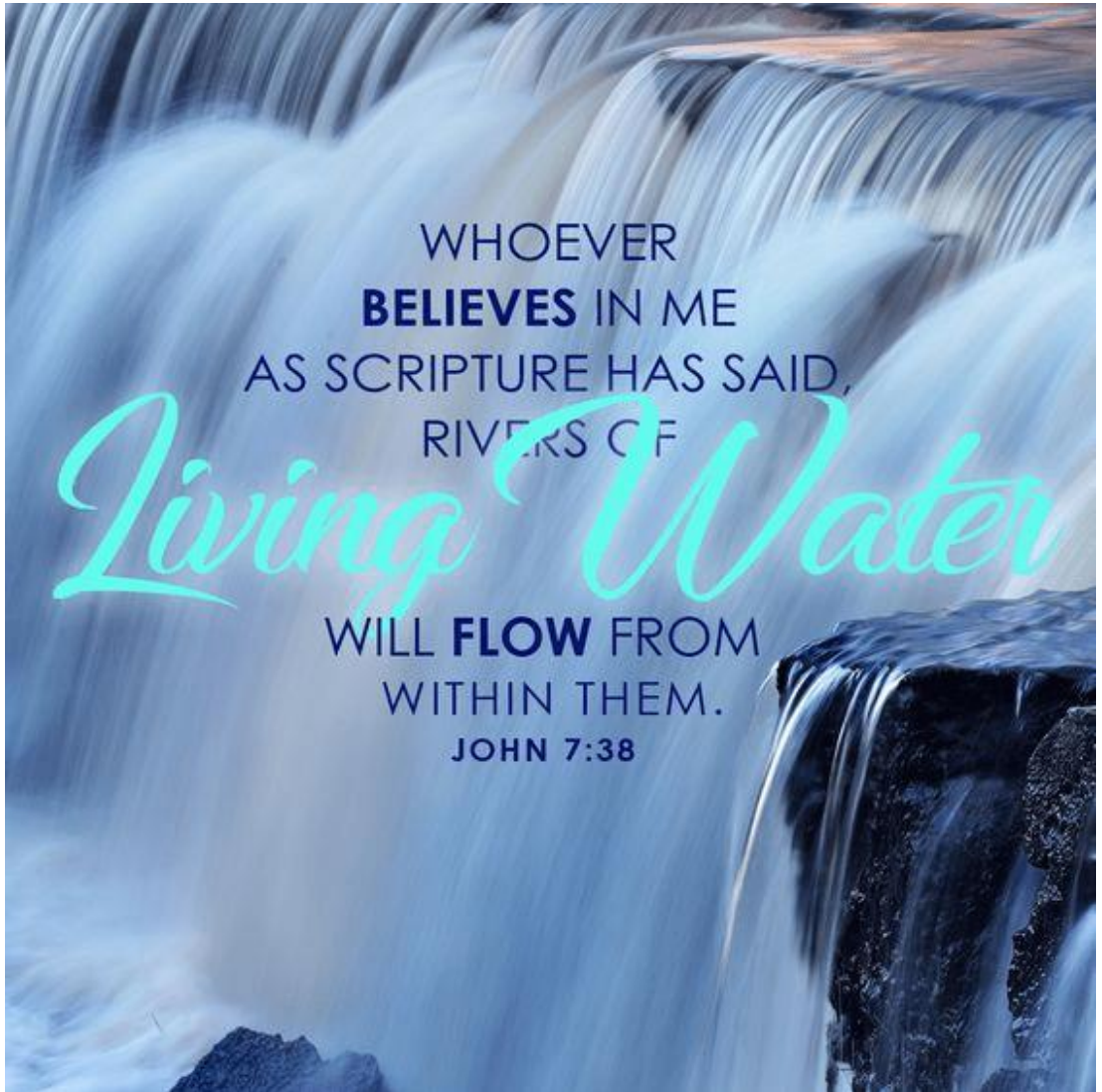


# First Church of Newark

820 Broad Street | Newark, NJ 07102



WHOEVER  
**BELIEVES** IN ME  
AS SCRIPTURE HAS SAID,  
RIVERS OF

*Living Water*

WILL **FLOW** FROM  
WITHIN THEM.  
JOHN 7:38

Rev. Dr. Carol Lynn Patterson

Pastor

# Third Sunday

March 15, 2026

11:00 a.m.



@1stchurchnewarknj



1stchurchnewark.org

## **We're On a Mission!**

*Growing into mature disciples of Jesus Christ, who are united in the Spirit  
by obedience to The Greatest Commandments  
and participation in The Great Co-mission.™*

Pastor  
Liturgist  
Scripture Readers  
Minister of Music

Rev. Dr. Carol Lynn Patterson  
Elder Yvette Klivi  
Ayele & Essivi Kessouagni  
Valarie Adams-Manigault

**Prelude**

Eric Melton

**Invocation**

Liturgist

**Call to Worship**

Congregation

One: Come to the water, all you who thirst; drink deeply from the river of life.

**Many: Come to the water, all you who are weary; rest in the quiet pools of God's love.**

One: All you who long for justice, come; be renewed in God's ever-flowing stream.

**Many: God is here among us, pouring out the Spirit on all who thirst.**

One: Just as the Spirit hovered over the waters in the beginning, God is with us now.

**All: May we be drenched with the presence and power of God as we worship together!**

**Congregational Hymn # 457**

*Even Me*

**\*Call to Confession**

Liturgist

Let us confess together all we have done to hurt others. We know it is wrong, but we distinguish between 'us' and 'them.' Let's ask God to forgive us.



### ***Silent Prayers of Confession***



**\*Prayer of Confession** (in unison)

Congregation

Lord of patience and persistence, we live in a broken and shattered world... a dry and weary land. All around us we see evidence of hatred and alienation. We need Your Spirit of peace and reconciliation. We have created ways to separate rather than unite; to divide in despair rather than develop communities of hope. Forgive us for our sins. Remind us today that the disciples, too, lived in a fearful world and that You empowered them with the promise of Your Spirit. You gave them hearts of courage and faith. Please bring to us the same power and strength so that we may serve You well in this present age, bringing peace and hope to our world. In the name of Jesus, we offer this prayer.

**\*Assurance of God's Pardon**

Congregation

One: We can be strong and courageous because God comes to fill our parched souls with living water, to open our eyes to the grace which is ours.

**All: Thanks be to God, our Father; Jesus, our Redeemer; and the Holy Spirit, our sustainer! Amen.**

**Gloria Patri**

*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.*

**Praise Song**

*I Just Want to Praise You*

**Welcome**

Liturgist

**Passing of the Peace** {with a gentle elbow bump}

Congregation

**One:** The Peace of Christ be with you!**All: Also, with you!****Pastoral Reflections**

Pastor Carol

**Women's History Month/Herstory Vignette**

Salomine Ekambi

**\*Prayer of Illumination** (in unison)

Congregation

Heavenly Father, thank You that Jesus is the living Water that satisfies the thirsty soul. As we hear Your Word, we ask that You would pour out Your Spirit upon us, quenching our thirst and leading us into a deeper understanding of Your truth. Open our hearts to receive the refreshing, life-giving power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.

**\*First Reading***Psalm 36:7-12*

Ayele &amp; Essivi Kessouagni

**Sermonic Selection***Fill My Cup, Lord***\*Second Reading***John 7:37-41*

Pastor Carol

**\*Sermon Title***Fountains of Living Water?*

Pastor Carol

**Sermonic Reflection***Fill My Cup, Lord***Affirmation of Faith** (*The Apostles Creed* in unison)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;  
 And in Jesus Christ, God's 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 is seated 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 universal Church, the communion of saints,  
 The forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayers for the People**

Pastor Carol

**The Model Prayer** (in unison)

Congregation

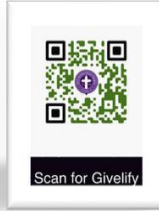
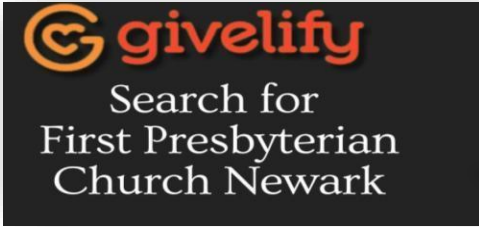
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

# The Joy of Giving

Offertory

*Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*

Three (3) Ways to Present Tithes and Offerings: Basket | Givelify | Text-to-Give



## \*Doxology

*Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

## \*Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist

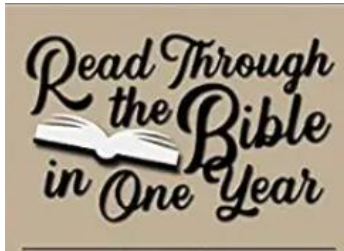
## Announcements & Benediction

Pastor Carol

## Recessional

*Let the Church Say Amen*

## \*No Walking at This Time



## Devote 20 Minutes Each Day to our Bible-in-a Year Reading Plan & Join us for our Noon Nugget

We're deepening our discipleship by following a Bible-in-a-Year reading plan and pausing to pray together Monday through Saturday at noon. Join us! Ask Pastor Carol for the reading plan. Dial (774) 300-8669 @ 12 p.m. for the Noon Nugget six days a week.

## Our Lenten Emphasis: The Kind of Fast God Chooses

*Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?*

*Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.*

*(Isaiah 58:6 & 8 NRSV)*

## We're Doing Justice by Advocating for Black Maternal Health in NJ

In 2024, there were approximately **400** practicing midwives in the State of NJ. Approximately **7%** of them identify as Black.

### We Declare That NJ Must

Build a more culturally congruent perinatal workforce.

To that end, we are encouraging legislators to adopt a **Targeted Workforce Development Program** that would commit resources to the recruitment and support of Black women in midwifery programs in response to the maternal health disparities that exist in this state.



### *March Birthdays*

*4th Raymond Ekambi  
Ayele Kessouagni  
22nd Salomine Ekambi  
24th Francoise Ekambi  
26th George Ekambi*

If your name is not on the birthday list, please send your information to [admin@1stchurchnewark.org](mailto:admin@1stchurchnewark.org)

# Sermon Notes

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Preacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Church Membership

Seeking a church home? Prayerfully consider First Church. Info @ Welcome Desk.

### Serve in our Worship Ministries

Gifted singers interested in our *Praise Team*, see Valarie Adams-Manigault.  
Gifted dancers interested in the *FPC Praise Dancers*, see Elders Yvette and Yvonne

**Adult Sunday School @ 10 a.m.** | Studying the Book of Revelation

**Book Club on Mondays @ 7:30 p.m.**

Reading the Bible-in-a-Year. All are welcome! Please see Elder Aprile for details.

**Tuesday Prayer Call @ 7:00 p.m.** | 1 (564) 888-5493 ~ Access Code 527822

**The Sacrifice of Prayer Call on Wednesdays @ 6 a.m.** | 1 (774) 300-8669

**GROW Bible Study: God's Rhema on Wednesdays @ 7 p.m. via Zoom**  
*It's a New Day* in partnership with Monumental Baptist Church of Jersey City

### Intercessory Prayer

To request healing or bereavement prayer, call the church office  
(973) 642-0260 or email [care@1stchurchnewark.org](mailto:care@1stchurchnewark.org)

**Virtual Worship** | See last Sunday's Service on YouTube @1stchurchnewarknj

### Session (Ruling Elders & Committees)

*Class of 2025*  
Aprile Booker-Russell (2)  
**Congregational Care**  
Rev. John Bugg (1)  
**Missions & Outreach**

*Class of 2026*  
Yvonne Kluvi (1)  
**Stewardship & Finance**  
Kossi Botobikpissi (1)  
**Buildings & Grounds**

*Class of 2027*  
Yvette Kluvi (1)  
**Worship**  
Aisha McCallum (2)  
**Human Resources**  
Josey Wynette (1)  
**Faith Formation**

### Deacons

*Class of 2025*  
Matilda Asare (2)  
James Russell (2)

*Class of 2026*  
Alba "Gigi" Egho (2)  
George Smith (2)  
Komlan Goe (1)  
Godwin Botobikpissi (1)

*Class of 2027*  
Genevieve Goeh-Akue (1)