

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Worship Leader: Pastor John Burden
Liturgist: Pat Gordon
Music Director: Matthew Hosmer

Streaming & Audio

Karen Huysers
Gail Freeland
Joe Apgar

Screen Visuals

Eddie Van Schaack

2026 CONSISTORY

Deacons

Bruce Davis
Joann Mack
Kristin Widdowson

Elder Care Team

Sabine Kroeger 973-202-4305
Terry Terhune 973-557-3040
Elena Van Schaack 973-632-6639

PRAYER CARE TEAM

If you are in need of prayer, spiritual support, or have questions or concerns about your faith journey, we faithfully encourage you to text or call any of the Prayer Care members listed below:

Drew Altorfer:	973-975-3223
Nancy Begin:	973-632-2696
Rick Pierce:	973-800-3499
Lynn Scarmazzo:	973-590-6423
Sabine Kroeger:	973-202-4305
Terry Terhune:	973-557-3040
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<https://www.facebook.com/PomptonReformedChurch>



POMPTON REFORMED CHURCH

August 23, 2026

10:00

The Christ Candle: *Jesus said, "I am the light of the world and whoever follows me will never walk in darkness."*

Call to Worship

We hear the voice of God calling,

"Love your neighbor as yourself."

We feel the Spirit moving among us,

moving us to acts of compassion and justice.

We know the love of Jesus.

We love because Christ first loved us.

Come, worship God together.

Come, let us serve our God, who calls us by name.

So Lord, our souls rise to meet you as the day rises to meet the sun.

Glory to the Father, and to The Son, and to The Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

Opening Song- Blue #593

"The Gift of Love"

Prayer of Confession

As we come before God, we bring our whole selves: all of our potential and all of our brokenness. We don't have to hide from God. We come to him, knowing he meets us in love. Merciful God, You see deep into our hearts and know us better than we know ourselves.

**Forgive us we pray. For the times we turn away from Your word,
remind us that You are the Lord our God, our eternal protector and guide.**

For our impulses of anger and jealousy, scorn or spite, grant us Your healing peace.

**For our resistance to forgiveness, generosity and mercy,
inspire us with Your compassionate love.**

Words of Assurance and Hope

Welcome now the abundant grace of God: in Jesus, your sins are forgiven. And let God's love comfort and heal your soul. **Redeeming God, in You, we are always welcome and accepted, always forgiven and renewed. Draw us closer to You, today and always. Amen.**

Living the Way of Jesus

As followers of Jesus, our lives are shaped by the grace and love of God. When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment is for the people of God, he quoted this passage. These words from Deuteronomy 6, one of the central passages of the Torah. Say them with me:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. And love your neighbor as yourselves. It goes on to say: These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. May we be known by how we love God and how we love those around us. Friends, this is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Announcements

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer
Offering**

Offertory – “When Love Sees You”

Doxology – Green #220 “In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful” [English & Spanish]

Sermon: Because God First Loved Us

Scripture: John 15:9-17

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if

you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

Our Shared Faith: The French Reformed Baptism Liturgy

For you, little one, Jesus Christ came into the world. For you he lived and showed God's love. For you he entered the shadow of Gethsemane and the horror of Calvary. For you he uttered the cry "It is Finished." For you he rose from the dead and ascended to heaven and there he intercedes for you. All of this was done for you, little one, though you don't know it yet. But we will continue to tell you this good news until it becomes your own. And so the promise of the gospel is fulfilled: We love because God first loved us.

Closing Song – Green #223 *"Shout to the Lord"*

Benediction