

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Worship Leader: Pastor John Burden
Liturgist: Rick Pierce
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
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POMPTON REFORMED CHURCH

September 27, 2026

10:00 am

The Christ Candle: *He is the light of the world and in him there is no darkness. The light shines into the darkness and the darkness will never overcome it.*

Call to Worship

Loving Shepherd, you know our names; and you care for us. When we face darkness and death, **you walk beside us.** When we hunger for your love, **you fill us with your presence.** When we are fearful, **you feed us at your table.** May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives. Lord, let 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- Green #268, verses 1 and 2 *"Here I Am, Lord"*

Prayer of Confession

Every week, we have an opportunity to experience God's grace and peace in our lives and remind ourselves that we are forgiven and loved. Part of this is acknowledging the ways we fall short and the parts of ourselves that hold us back from being the people who God created us to be. Join me in this litany of confession and words of assurance.

Lord, we would follow you wherever you might lead. Lord, we would follow you.

Forgive us when we stumble, when we stray, and when our commitment fades.

Forgive us when, distracted we lose our way.

Be the one to whom we turn, be the one who guides along the path of peace, hope and love. Lord, we would follow you wherever you might lead. Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord have mercy.

Words of Assurance

Friends, these words of hope and assurance are from Psalm 103.

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has

compassion on those who fear him; **for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.** May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Living the Way of Jesus: Living the Way of Love in 1 Corinthians 13

As followers of Jesus, our motivations and actions are shaped by peace, compassion, and love. Join me in reading these short passages of scripture.

From Micah chapter 6: He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. **And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.** And from the first chapter of Isaiah: **Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.** Friends, this is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

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

Offertory – “Endless Is Your Love”

Doxology –Blue #808 “Praise God From Whom All Blessings”

Scripture: Genesis 3:1-15, 20, and 4:1-2

Sermon: Always Time to Begin Again

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, 'Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.'" Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man." Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Our Shared Faith: Our World Belongs to God, Article 12

Even now, as history unfolds in ways we know only in part, we are assured that God is with us in our world, holding all things in tender embrace and bending them to his purpose. The confidence that the Lord is faithful gives meaning to our days and hope to our years. The future is secure, for our world belongs to God.

Closing Song – Blue #20 *"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"*

Benediction