

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 9 2020

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING. . .

The Prelude

Summer Music

Richard Rodney Bennett

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

William Whiting/John Bacchus Dykes

The Call To Worship

Jim Toler, liturgist

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

We proclaim here and now the marvelous works of our God!

Let our hearts leap for joy, O people of God.

We proclaim here and now the marvelous faithfulness of our God!

God's ways are not our ways. God's works are too wonderful to behold.

We proclaim here and now the marvelous works of our God!

The Prayer of Adoration

Lord, our God, where is there another God like You – a God of justice and unfailing love, Who stands by every promise made to his people, generation after generation? There is no other. You alone are God. And so we gather together to worship You: to give You thanks, to proclaim Your greatness, to sing Your praise, to seek Your face, and to celebrate Your faithful presence with us. Glory and honor be unto You, the One Eternal God – Creator Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

The Hymn

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

*I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.*

*I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.*

*I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
God formed the creatures with a word, and then pronounced them good.*

*Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed, Where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!*

*There's not a plant or flower below but makes Thy glories known,
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Thy throne,
while all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care,
and everywhere that we can be, Thou, God, art present there.*

*The Prayer of Confession

We have strayed, O God, from Your will and Your way. Like the brothers of Joseph, we have betrayed family and friends for our own vain glory; we have enslaved others to suit our purposes; we have lied to cover our tracks, we have forgotten our faith when it is convenient; we have failed You and each other so many times. In Your mercy, forgive us ...(time for silent confession)... . Transform us once again by Your saving grace that we might pursue Your Son our Lord with all our heart, mind and soul, and so be renewed into the fullness of life that You have promised us. We pray this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

*The Assurance of Pardon

Here is proof that God's faithfulness never ends: that while we were yet sinners,

God sent God's Son, Jesus Christ, to shed his blood for our sins,

that we might not be cast down into the pit,

but rise with him to everlasting life.

Siblings in Christ, hear and believe the Good News of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

*The Gloria Patri (spoken)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: World without end. Amen.**

*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**
(For those worshipping in the Sanctuary, please be careful to maintain adequate distance
as you exchange this ancient greeting with worshipers seated near you.
For those worshipping at home, please share Christ's peace with someone outside Your home this week.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson: *Genesis 37:1-4,12-28*

The Psalter Lesson: *Psalms 105:1-6,16-22,45b*

The Anthem

On Eagle's Wings

Michael Joncas/Mark Hayes, arr.

*And He will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of His hand.
You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: "My refuge, my Rock in whom I trust!"
And He will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun., and hold you in the palm of His hand.
The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear:
Under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield.
For to His angels He's given a command to guard you in all of your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.
And He will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun., and hold you in the palm of His hand.*

The Epistle Lesson: *Romans 10:5-15*

The Gospel Lesson: *Matthew 14:22-33*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon

Wellness Check
Brittany Tamminga

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD. . .

*The Affirmation of Faith

A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,**

we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba Father.

**In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,**

male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

**Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.**

We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

**In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah
chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.**

**Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.**

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

**Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession
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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD'S NAME. . .

The Hymn

Precious Lord. Take My Hand

*Precious Lord, take my hand; Lead me on, help me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light;
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.
When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near;
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall;
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

The Charge & Benediction

The Postlude

Vivo from Sonata

Blaz Pucihar

Announcements for - August 9-16

Many years ago, I found myself in an off-the-cuff conversation with an older woman about her vision of heaven. She shared with me that one of her visions involved joining a massive choir, eternally engaged in singing praises through hymns – “preferably the old hymns” whose words she recognized.

I hold onto that mental picture of an eternal choir, because one part of my religious expression involves stepping away from the noise of the world and experiencing wonder and awe at God’s creation and at the story of salvation.

There is a beloved hymn we sing, its lyrics penned in 1664 by Samuel Crossman called “My Song is Love Unknown.” The final verse of that hymn goes as follows:

*Here might I stay and sing no story so divine:
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.*

Stopping, and staying, and praising is natural to us as believers, and I’d like to think that our busy, distracting, challenging world does not prevent us from being swept up in praise. But then there are the two middle lines of this verse, “...never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine...”

These words pull me back into our noisy world, and the fact that even God incarnate did not ask to be spared the human experiences of heights and depths. Not only did Jesus feel the sorrows, joys, and love of humanity, but he sacrificed his life, lovingly, on all humankind’s behalf.

As we confront the grief and challenges of these days, may we strive to comprehend, and work to express here and now, the sacrificial message of love, which has been delivered as a saving grace for all humankind.



Birthdays this week August 9-16

9. Jeannette Gibbons, Lizzie Hamlett, Jackie Hollister, Ali Hoover, Leah Humphreys, Cameron Sidebotham
10. Allie Hall, David Langdon, Karla Lewis, John Thompson
11. Bill Major, Bart Sprinkle
12. Gene Brower, Dorothy Rice
13. Brad Allison, Willis Lacy, Preston Simms
14. Jan Erkert, Lewis Lowery
15. Suzanne Gehrts
16. Eric Gunther, Shaun Sullivan



Getting Involved Through Service and Mission

The Interfaith Community Council and The Salvation Army are partnering to provide clothing and other items normally given out at the annual **School Dressing Days** event, which was cancelled for this year. Our filled bins have been moved to their new office space on Lafayette Boulevard (near the thrift shop) and they will give out items on Wednesdays and Fridays, similar to a food pantry. Details are being finalized but they plan to begin on August 12. Volunteers will likely be needed. We will restock items through the fall as needed. We will continue collecting soap, deodorant, shampoo and full size toothpaste. Boys L and XL boxer/briefs, men’s M and L boxer/briefs, and teen girls (adult sized, not brief style) underwear size 5,6,7, & 8 are also in low supply. Monetary donations can be made to Interfaith Community Council, memo School Dressing Days and mailed to P.O. Box 1336, Fredericksburg, 22402. Your ongoing support is so appreciated. Families will really need help this year and both The Interfaith Community Council and The Salvation Army organizations are excited to come together to help families in need.

Lectionary Readings for Sunday, August 16:

Genesis 45: 1-15; Psalm 133;
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Church Family News:

Capsule of Concern: Donn Langfitt, Karla Lewis Debra Myers, Billie Plank

New address for Billie Plank:

Noah’s Landing
101 W. Otter Ridge Dr.
Goode, VA 24556

The next **Community "Dinner"** is Saturday, August 15. If you would like to contribute individually bagged salads or brownies, or you would like to help deliver meal (most likely pizza) to Micah guests who are staying in local motels, contact Karen Johnson, ksjohnson422@msn.com, (540) 621-5685

Thank for your faithful support of our ongoing ministries. Please send your checks to the church office or give online through our website www.fredericksburgpc.org.

Storied, a Video Series of The Presbyterian Church - The church isn't a building, it's a *people*. The series, which can be accessed through our YouTube channel, seeks to illuminate the stories and experiences of just some of the people that share in the life and ministry of our congregation. It is the hope of our staff and session that these short videos will help to connect us, one to another, as well as encourage and strengthen our fellowship in these days of limited gathering.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIJ5e8hmZeE2K-SAtfjoWpA>

Weekly Worship - Recordings of our weekly worship service are available on our YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIJ5e8hmZeE2K-SAtfjoWpA>) or go to our website: www.fredericksburgpc.org and click on the video recording button on the right side of the page. **Bulletins and announcements** are also posted each week on the church website, so you may follow along as you watch the services.

Summer Offerings for Christian Education

Faith and Art, Images of Jesus - A six-week Zoom class begins Sunday, July 12, at 9:45 a.m., led by David Johnson, Debe Garrison, and Mary Szymanski. Art that depict various representations of Christ will be displayed and used as a jumping off point for discussions of how we imagine Jesus theologically, historically and culturally. Class participants will be able to submit depictions of Christ and share how they are meaningful to them. Contact David Johnson (tomten46@msn.com), if you are planning to attend so we can create a backup email list.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/71567819287?pwd=YTV4ZzBZZ051T2Jobncram56RmdPZz09>

Meeting ID: 715 6781 9287; Password: 8WzVW1;

Faith and Movie Class will resume this Sunday, Aug 2, when the movie will be **Castaway** (2000). Next Sunday, August 9, the movie will be **Finding Forrester**. This class meets on Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:00 a.m., via Zomm. The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84012359434>.

Sowing Tears, Reaping Joy: The Bible and Brahms' Requiem - Follow this famous requiem on a tour of Biblical prompts about death, grief, the brevity of life, and faith for here and hereafter. Through music and Scripture, we move from graveside to grieving, from the challenges of self-reflection to new perspectives and hope beyond. This class will meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., beginning July 1. To participate in this study, please email Larry and Mary Ann Casey (lmacasey@fredericksburgpc.org), for the Zoom link.

Weekly Zoom Meetings

Men's Breakfast Group, Tuesday, 7:30 a.m. Contact John Howe (jhowe1969@cox.net) for the Zoom link.

Meditation Group, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Contact Marsha Lockett (lucyett@juno.com) for the Zoom link.

Women's Bible Study, Thursday, 9:30 a.m. Contact Marsha Lockett (lucyett@juno.com) for the Zoom link.