

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

June 28, 2020

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING. . .

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

The Call To Worship

(from *Psalms 13*)

Consider and answer me, O Lord my God! Give light to my eyes.

We come, O Lord, seeking answers to our questions.

We come to You, O God, because You are the Creator.

I have trusted in Your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

We come looking for a song to sing.

We wait for Your voice to call us from beyond our fear.

The Prayer of Adoration

*The Hymn 49

The God of Abraham Praise

The God of Abram praise, Who reigns enthroned above;

The ancient of eternal days, The God of love!

The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed,

we bow before Your holy name, Forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will;

In prophet's word You spoke of old and You speak still.

Established is Your law, and changeless it shall stand,

deep writ upon the human heart by Your strong hand.

*The Prayer of Confession

Nick Medina

God, Your will is for all creation to have abundant life. We confess that sometimes we do not understand Your way, and often we prefer to walk our own way. We confess that sometimes we have received Your good gift, then allowed that gift to become our god. We confess that it is easier to ask you to bless what we want to do, rather than to ask for the courage to do what You are blessing. Forgive our hard hearts and closed minds, our selfish ambition and cultural bondage. Free us to follow Your way of justice, peace, and love ...*(time for silent confession)*... . Gracious God, silence every voice in us but Your own, that we may be Your faithful people. We pray in the Name of the One Who lived every moment in obedience to You, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

*The Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

From before the beginning until long beyond our imagination,

God's love endures

Know that you are forgiven, loved and free.

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!**

(Consider sending a message to someone you have not been in touch with lately. A note, a phone call, a text or email reminding others that Christ is with us and blesses us when we are together and apart.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

As we come to Your Word this day, O God, make peace in our hearts so that we may truly hear You, and follow You, for it is in serving You that we find life abundant. Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 22:1-14

The Psalter Lesson: Psalm 13

The Anthem

Simple Gifts

Darrell Douglas, arr.

*'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right, 'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained, To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed.
To turn, turn will be our delight, 'Til by turning, turning we come 'round right.*

The Epistle Lesson: Romans 6:12-23

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 10:40-42

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

The Sermon

Lessons from the Land of Moriah
Brittany Tamminga

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD. . .

*The Affirmation of Faith

(from "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 the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,

sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,

and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles

**rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the water of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.**

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage

**to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

**we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**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 the People

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 725

O Jesus, I Have Promised

*O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end; be now and always near me, my Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side, nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.*

*O let me feel You near me! The world is ever near; I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within; but, Jesus, draw still nearer and shield my soul from sin.*

*O let me hear You speaking in accents clear and still, above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control; O speak, and make me listen, true guardian of my soul.*

*O Jesus, You have promised to all who follow You that where You are in glory Your servant shall be too.
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve You to the end; now give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend*

*The Charge and Benediction

*The Postlude

Announcements for - June 28-July 5

Continuing to be the Church Together

It has been a joy to see each of you respond in love and faith to the challenging times that are upon us. We, the staff of The Presbyterian Church, have been moved by the way you continue to reach out and pray for those around you and in our community. While we do not gather in our buildings, the life of our faith continues as we practice the presence of God through faith and action in our lives, the life of our families, and the life of this world.

In this time while we are not in the same place, we remain committed to living out our care for one another and remaining together while apart. We very much want to hear from you! Our Pastors, Elders, Deacons, and other volunteers are available to connect with you by phone and email.

We want to reach out and care for you in these challenging days so, please contact us in the Church Office if you are – or someone you know is – **experiencing anger or grief; are in self-quarantine or feeling isolated, lonely, anxious, or sick;** or if you are a **medical professional or are a provider of essential services.**

May you be held and guided through this wilderness by the Good Shepherd and may God's love and mercy uphold you through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Capsule of Concern: Michele Coffman, Opal Ritchie, Billie Plank, John Walker

Lectionary Readings for Sunday, July 5:

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67;
Psalm 45:10-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Birthdays this week June 28-July 5

- 28. Michelle Porter
- 29. Stephen Gloyd, Iain Whitford
- 30. Betty Brooks, John Copley, Len Dameron, Larry Repanshek, Brittany Tamminga
- 1. Sara Broyles, Ginger Bushman, Sidney Hughes, Sharon Humes, Rick Pullen, Steve Spratt, Adam Zimmerman
- 2. Minta Cadger
- 5. Coy Franklin, Cara Miles

Online SAFETY NOTICE:

Recently there has been a rash of 'phishing' emails sent to members of the congregation. They are attempts to connect, pretending to be from one of our pastors. NOTE: Official communication and church emails come only from our @fredericksburgpc.org domain address. If you receive emails purporting to be from church staff with a different domain address (i.e. @gmail.com) please DO NOT REPLY, and DO NOT CLICK ANY LINKS. If you have questions about any church email, please call the church office Monday - Friday mornings.

Many Thanks to all who donated items to our flash food drive – the response was overwhelming! All donations will benefit families in our community not able to access food banks or charitable pantries. We at the Presbyterian Church, along with our ministry partners at The Islamic Center and Beth Shalom Temple, are so grateful for your generosity and willingness to remember the poor and hungry right here in our community.

Furthering the Conversation: Resources to Engage Issues of Race

WATCH: *Racism is Real*, a split-screen video depicting the differential in the white and black lived experience (<https://youtu.be/fTcSVQJ2h8g>)

READ: *21 Racial Microaggressions You Hear on a Daily Basis*, by Heben Nigatu (<https://www.buzzfeed.com/hnigatu/racial-microaggressions-you-hear-on-a-daily-basis>)

LISTEN: *Code Switch*, a podcast hosted by journalists Gene Demby and Shereen Marisol Meraji

Coming soon to **our YouTube Channel: Storied, a video series of The Presbyterian Church**, as well as additional resources for young families. Subscribe to the channel for the latest updates, using the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIJ5e8hmZeE2K-SAtfjoWpA>

A new video, *Saying Thank you to our 2019-2020 Church School Teachers and Christian Education Volunteers*, is now on our YouTube channel. <https://youtu.be/i6VgZTMDh90>

The “**Community Dinner**” took place on Saturday, June 20. Sixty meals prepared by The Alpine Chef were delivered to Micah guests staying in 3 different area motels. Thank you to Sherman Brown, Jerry Zekert, Jerry Parsons and Beth, Joe, Jack and Sam Valasko for helping with the delivery. Thanks also to all the brownie/cake makers. Look for upcoming announcements on how you can help with the July 18 meal. If you have questions, contact Karen Johnson, ksjohnson422@msn.com, (540) 621-5685.

Our **Presbyterian Church sponsored summer Red Cross Blood Drive** will be on Tuesday, August 4, from 1:00-7:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. The Corona virus pandemic has had far reaching effects, including the lack of blood donations causing a national blood shortage for the American Red Cross. Extensive precautions are implemented at each and every Red Cross Drive to prevent the spread of this virus. Safety for every individual is at the center of all donations. A few steps being implemented include requiring masks be worn by all participants (workers included), sanitation of all areas touched and used by the people who make the wonderful choice to give their precious blood in order to save three lives. Please consider donating blood to the American Red Cross. Volunteers are needed for coordinator and registration help. Contact Linda Benn via email lkrab@verizon.net, or phone 540-370-1646, before 9 p.m.

We are collecting items to put in backpacks for **School Dressing Days**. Donations of soap, deodorant, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, 1” binders, athletic socks for boys/girls, and backpacks may be brought to the Education Building Lobby, Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. or Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Monetary donations are welcome. Checks may be made out to Interfaith Community Council, with School Dressing Days on the memo line and mailed to IFCC, PO Box 1336, Fredericksburg, VA, 22402

Thanks 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.

Summer Offerings for Christian Education

Faith and Art Class - Art is older than the Christian faith, of course. But human beings have always used visual images of one kind or another – figurative, abstract or symbolic, in private and in public – to articulate their individual and collective responses to the Divine. Class participants will select pieces that depict specific scriptural scenes, then use those pieces as a jumping off point for discussion around that particular Scripture. This class will be led by David Johnson and Mary Szymanski at 9:45 a.m. beginning on Sunday, July 12. To participate in this class, please be in touch with David Johnson (tomten46@msn.com), who will then email you a Zoom invitation.

Faith and Movie Class - Do you like to watch movies – both old favorites and unfamiliar titles? If you like to discuss the stories and themes in movies, and relate them to our sacred stories and faith, this class is for you. Class participants choose a movie for everyone to watch during the week and then lead the discussion via Zoom. This class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m., and 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.

Summer Book Club 2020 – Pandemic-Style continues to discuss *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis on Tuesday evenings this summer via zoom - July 7 & 21, and August 4. Originally published in 1942, *The Screwtape Letters* is a collection of 31 correspondences written by a senior demon named Screwtape to his nephew, Wormwood, a younger and less experienced demon, instructing him on the finer points of how to corrupt the human soul. Screwtape’s advice to his eager protégé might surprise you... We will meet via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to join this “stay at home” book club, please email me (jenrowe@cox.net). I will then email you a reading schedule and a Zoom invitation for our first meeting.

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 Luckett (luckett@juno.com) for the Zoom link.
- Women’s Bible Study, Thursday, 9:30 a.m. Contact Marsha Luckett (luckett@juno.com) for the Zoom link.