

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The Third Sunday After Pentecost

June 21, 2020

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING. . .

The Prelude *Sweet Hour of Prayer* arr. Robert J. Hughes

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit *Light Dawns on a Weary World* Bringle/Rowan

The Call To Worship Beth Huber

God cares for us completely and calls for our total commitment.
Christ gave his life that we might live and calls us to give our lives to him.
Through Christ we have died to sin;
in Christ are made fully alive to God.

The Prayer of Adoration

You incline Your ear to hear us, O Lord, when we cry to You. You are a God of compassion Who gently cares for our needs in times of distress. In Christ You teach us Your ways that we may walk in Your truth. Your Spirit directs the way we shall go. You are the God Who can be trusted – through the years You have never forsaken those who called on Your Name. Praise be to You the One - Eternal God - Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all. Amen.

The Hymn

Baptized in Water

*Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit,
Cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King; Heirs of salvation,
Trusting the promise, Faithfully now God's praises we sing.*

*Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit,
Dead in the tomb with Christ, our King; One with His rising,
Freed and forgiven, Thankfully now God's praises we sing.*

*Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit,
Marked with the sign of Christ, our King; born of the Spirit,
We are God's children, joyfully now God's praises we sing.*

The Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

There is nothing God will not do for us.
**Christ went to the cross so that we might know
that life is eternal and sin is not.**
You are forgiven, renewed and restored– live, and help others to live
with the knowledge that God loves us all.
**We will live as people who have died to sin
and who live for Christ. Amen.**

*The Gloria Patri

*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

The Old Testament Lesson: *Genesis 21:8-21*

The Psalter Lesson: *Psalms 86:1-10, 16-17*

The Anthem

His Eye Is On the Sparrow

Gabriel/Shrader

*Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven and home?
When Jesus is my portion? My constant Friend is He:
For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free!
For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.
"Let not your heart be troubled," His tender words I hear.
And resting on His prom I lose my dobt and fear.
Though on the path He leads me, O, just one step I see:
For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free!
For His eye is on the Sparrow, and I know He watches me.*

The Epistle Lesson: *Romans 6:1b-11*

The Gospel Lesson: *Matthew 10:24-39*

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

The Sermon

Comfort and Affliction
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

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 Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

**preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,

**Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.**

God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,

breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

**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

There is Now a New Creation

*There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ,
peace and reconciliation with the God of endless life.*

*Call the lost and found together; tell the news to everyone:
now the past is gone forever and a new life has begun*

*Wrap the prodigal in welcome; run to greet the wayward child.
All is finished and forgiven; let us now be reconciled*

*There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ.
Sing, with thanks and adoration, to the God of endless life!*

The Charge and Benediction

The Postlude

Blessed Be the Name

arr. Brian Glyncannon

Announcements for - June 21-28

A Reflection on Psalm 82

When the subject of judgment surfaces, many of us grimace with discomfort. All we have to do is consider briefly the traits of mean-spiritedness or pettiness that too often accompany judgment in our society, and we loathe to discuss it. We bristle at easy condemnations. We fear being unfairly judged or misjudging others. It can be a paralyzing burden. Yet, in fact, we are making judgments every day. We might more charitably call them decisions – brief discernments about what is or is not best for us and for others – and in so doing, we make judgments about matters such as where and what to eat or whom to help and whom to avoid.

Scripture, through the words of the psalmist, reminds us that those judgments have life-and-death consequences for others. We might not realize it, but decisions we make with regard to where we spend our dollars and how we share our resources of time and attention can all have adverse impact on the lives of others. Sure. We have good intentions, but we also carry biases (often implicit), a limited frame of reference, and a lack of curiosity. All of these hinder our ability to deal justly with those the psalmist names: the widows, orphans, weak, and needs – those who too often have their back against the wall of history and everyday life.

We, perhaps the little gods of this psalm, often make poor judges, not because judging is wrong, but because we do it without justice, equity, and the well-being of others in mind. But the psalmist reminds us there is another judge in our midst. The God of heaven and earth, our creator, Redeemer, and sustainer, exhibits righteous judgment. It is this God who reminds us that our choices and decisions matter and we should make them with care, humility, and grace.

May the One who judges the world with equity guide us in discernment, leading us to judge justly and love generously.

Capsule of Concern: Bob Deaderick, Opal Ritchie, Billie Plank, John Walker

Lectionary Readings for Sunday, June 28:

Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13;
Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

Birthdays this week June 21-28

21. David Johnson, Becky Paul
22. Camille McAllister, Trina Parsons
23. Amy Ellis, Angela Gray, Marnie Schattgen
24. Mary Katherine Greenlaw, Denise Hamilton, Donna Hughes, Morgan Mallory, Andrew Thomas
25. Brett Betsill, Doris Glidden
26. Shannon Hendricks, Caleb McAllister
27. Anna Oplinger
28. Michelle Porter

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>

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.

The **Community “Dinner”** this month will again be a restaurant prepared boxed meal. Volunteers are needed on either Saturday, June 20, at 4:30 p.m. or Monday, June 22, at 11:30 a.m. to deliver the meals to Micah guests staying in local motels. (The final date is still being determined.) If you would feel comfortable helping with the delivery, contact Karen Johnson at ksjohnson422@msn.com or (540) 621-5685.

Flash Food Drive This Weekend - Know Your Neighbor Initiative - We are holding an urgent food drive for families in our community who are lacking food and don't have the means to get to our area food banks and charitable pantries. Many are immigrants who arrived in our area shortly before the COVID shutdown and are only learning to adjust to our area, our culture, and our society. These families have been identified through the Fredericksburg School System as particularly in need of help. The Know Your Neighbor partners -- The Islamic Center of Fredericksburg, The Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church, and Beth Shalom Temple – are teaming up to help with this urgent need, and to do it quickly. What you should do:

- Prepare a food box/bag for a family (recommended contents are below). Don't worry about the amount of food. More is better, but some is better than none. You may decorate the box and you may include a note if you are moved to do so
- Drop off your box at the Education Building on Sunday June 21, between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. or Monday, June 22, between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. You can remain in your car to maintain distance for health reasons. If you can't make the drop off time, please contact Jen Rowe (jenrowe@cox.net) we'll make alternative arrangements. Don't let this get in the way of doing the right thing

It's a fast, easy way to do several good things in one action:

- Help those in need
- Welcome the stranger
- Honor your Father by doing this on Father's Day

RECOMMENDED CONTENTS (Non-perishable only, please):

Pasta-boxed	Beans	Tomato Sauce-canned
Vegetables/Fruits-canned	Rice	Soups
Jelly or Fruit Spread/Preserve	Peanut Butter	Tea/Coffee
Cereal	Sugar	Flour Oil

We have 3 families who are currently staying in motels, they don't have a stove to make their meals. For these families we try to have some microwavable items: Mac & Cheese; Pasta/Rice; Soups

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. To participate in this class, please be in touch with David Johnson (tomten46@msn.com), who will then email you a Zoom invitation. The date and time of this class is TBD.

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 continues to meet on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. To participate in this class, please be in touch with Marty and Vicky Wilder (vnwilder@comcast.net), who will then email you a Zoom invitation.

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), who will then email you a Zoom invitation.

Summer Book Club 2020 – Pandemic-Style: Please join me, Jen Rowe, for a virtual book club experience this summer as we discuss *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis via Zoom. 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. on four Tuesday evenings over the summer: June 23, July 7 & 21, and August 4. Feel free to bring your own snacks and drinks. 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 Lockett (lockett@juno.com) for the Zoom link.

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