**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**First Presbyterian Church**

300 Market Street, Warren, PA 16365-2360

Following Christ So All May Thrive

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**June 21, 2020**



**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY**

Third Sunday after Pentecost

**June 21, 2020 10:00 AM**

*Thank you for silencing your electronic devices.*

**We GATHER in God’s GRACE**

PRELUDE  *Be Thou My Vision* David Evans

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) (verses from Psalm 86)

L: You, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

**P: Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication.**

L: There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.

**P: For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God!**

\*HYMN *God of Great and God of Small* #19

CALL TO CONFESSION: (based on Ephesians 2)

We are certain that our lives would be so much less than they are if it were not for God’s grace bringing us fullness of life through the richness of God’s mercy! Yet we are also certain that we do not honor the gift of God’s grace because we forget that who we are is God’s accomplishment. Trusting that we will be renewed by admitting our need for God’s grace, let us pray together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Responsive) [adapted from Reaching for Rainbows by Ann Weems]

L: God of all people, Lord of all children, we ask for your mercy on behalf all children who are not able to play in sunshine but live their lives in the darkness of poverty, violence, and fear.

**P: Forgive us for not seeing. Forgive us for not even looking.**

L: Grant us vision to discern new ways of caring for all the children of the world!

**P: Forgive us for not thinking about the children who are sick with no one to care for them, the children who do not have anyone affirming them for their goodness, the children who cry in the darkness with no one to hear them.**

L: In your mercy, lead us into ministries that provide care, nurture wellbeing, offer hope, and spread the Light of Christ to lift your children out of the darkness.

**P: As we are renewed in your grace this day, may we see more clearly and love more deeply all the children of the world! Hear us as we ask for your mercy in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

TIME FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION

WORDS ASSURING US OF GOD’S GRACE (Responsive) (based on Ephesians 2)

L: This is Good News: God saves us in grace and brings us the peace of Christ!

**P: We are reconciled to God through Christ’s death on the cross!**

L: In Christ we are forgiven and have become a living temple filled with God’s Spirit!

**P: We belong to God! Praise our Lord Jesus Christ!**

\*RESPONSE *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* #582

**WE RECEIVE GOD’S WORD**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison):

**Grant us grace to hear you, O God, as you speak to us today! Grant us love to live for you, O Lord, as you lead us this day! Hear us as we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 21:8-20 (Common English Bible)

The boy grew and stopped nursing. On the day he stopped nursing, Abraham prepared a huge banquet. Sarah saw Hagar’s son laughing, the one Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham. So she said to Abraham, “Send this servant away with her son! This servant’s son won’t share the inheritance with my son Isaac.” This upset Abraham terribly because the boy was his son. God said to Abraham, “Don’t be upset about the boy and your servant. Do everything Sarah tells you to do because your descendants will be traced through Isaac. But I will make of your servant’s son a great nation too, because he is also your descendant.” Abraham got up early in the morning, took some bread and a flask of water, and gave it to Hagar. He put the boy in her shoulder sling and sent her away. She left and wandered through the desert near Beer-sheba. Finally the water in the flask ran out, and she put the boy down under one of the desert shrubs. She walked away from him about as far as a bow shot and sat down, telling herself, I can’t bear to see the boy die. She sat at a distance, cried out in grief, and wept. God heard the boy’s cries, and God’s messenger called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “Hagar! What’s wrong? Don’t be afraid. God has heard the boy’s cries over there. Get up, pick up the boy, and take him by the hand because I will make of him a great nation.” Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well. She went over, filled the water flask, and gave the boy a drink. God remained with the boy; he grew up, lived in the desert, and became an expert archer.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God!**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 10:26-31 (Common English Bible)

“Therefore, don’t be afraid of those people because nothing is hidden that won’t be revealed, and nothing secret that won’t be brought out into the open. What I say to you in the darkness, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, announce from the rooftops. Don’t be afraid of those who kill the body but can’t kill the soul. Instead, be afraid of the one who can destroy both body and soul in hell.  Aren’t two sparrows sold for a small coin? But not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father knowing about it already. Even the hairs of your head are all counted. Don’t be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON: *Worth Love* Rev. Rebecca Taylor

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

OFFERING

*Please consider sending your gift through the mail or by utilizing the online giving function on the church’s website! God’s mission continues!*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (traditional)

**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.**

\*WORDS AFFIRMING OUR FAITH (Unison) (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

**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.**

\*HYMN *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* #275

\*BENEDICTION Isaiah 43:1, 4a (Common English Bible)

But now, says the LORD-the one who created you, Jacob, the one who formed you, Israel: Don’t fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. Because you are precious in my eyes, you are honored, and I love you.

Remember: you are never alone. You are always held in the love of God, kept in the grace of Jesus the Christ, and accompanied by the Holy Spirit!

\* THE LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE NEXT WEEK\*\*\*

**Genesis 22:1–14** Romans 6:12–23

Psalm 13 **Matthew 10:40–42**

Questions for Reflection

What is God asking me to return? Why? What might be the outcome?

Household Prayer: Morning

I rise this day in the power of your Holy Spirit, O God. I lift up my hands, my heart, and my songs to praise you, O Christ. Be for me today, my Savior, the guardian in my weakness, a friend on my journey, and my aim for all I seek to do. May all who speak to me say, “Peace”; may all to whom I speak hear, “Love.” Give visions of Christ in pied beauty around tables of meeting, along paths of dappling shadows, and in the faces of loved ones and strangers. Whether the day is bright or gloomy, be my light. Then, when the night begins to fall, bid me home—be my home, that I may find my rest in you, O Three in One. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening Be my light, O Creator of light, as evening comes to my home and to me. Let me see your name written in sparkling stars, glowing planets, dancing cosmic wind. Let me hear you pass gently in the cool of the night’s breeze, on the wings of the night-flying creatures. And if there are to be storms this night, so that I shall not see the sky, and a gale howls with fearful threats, let me still put my trust in you, rest in you. Or, because there is a need in the world, rise up as you give me strength to bear witness with heart and hands to the world’s true light, in whose name I pray. Amen.

\*\*Taken from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2*. © 2014 Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



**OUR STAFF**

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Kyle Brecht, Property Manager Ben Check, Assist. Property Manager

Courtney Robillard, Childcare Curtis Tyler, Childcare

Lori VanOrd, Childcare Terri Shaw, Childcare

**THE SESSION**

Ross Bryan Joanna Elletson

Rene’ Davis Ann Ferguson

Gale Dyke Ray Pring

Larry Dyke Carrie Salapek

Jim Eggleston Lynn Sears

Vickie Eggleston

**\*\*\* JOYS AND CONCERNS \*\*\***

**Joys:**

Staff and Leadership is working towards in-person worship on July 5, 2020

Susan Wenzel, who is recovering from successful surgery

Bob Sears who is training to assist in leading Bible Studies at SCI Cambridge Springs

**Concerns:**

Prayers for Sheila Shrefler and her family on the recent death of her husband, Frank

Prayers for Hunter Peterson’s grandfather, Rodney Anderson, hospitalized in Pittsburgh

Prayers for our members and friends residing in care facilities and receiving care at home

Prayers for those affected by the Coronavirus and those in the medical community attending to the sick

Prayers for Rob Stroup who is recovering from a recent ankle surgery

Prayers for Betty Steklacic, who is at Warren Manor

Prayers for Andrew Dworek, 18 years old, recently diagnosed with cancer

Prayers for Bill

Prayers of healing for Wanda Monts

Courage, Strength and Faith to Larfay Austin Jr during his incarceration

Prayers for Carinne Palm, Vickie Eggleston’s sister, undergoing radiation treatments

Prayers for Norm Perschke who is at the Rouse Home

Prayers for Sherran Jones who is at the Rouse Home

Prayers for Lynda Slocum’s son Andy and grandson, Brayden

Prayers for Lois Buerkle, Lynn Sears’ sister, as she undergoes treatments for cancer

Prayers for Louise Crozier and family

Prayers for Katie Roth Spiegel, who is undergoing treatment for cancer

Prayers for Wally Post

Prayers for Lisa Huey Hochberg and others struggling with dementia and alzheimer’s

Prayers for Seth Courage, strength, and faith to all those affected by violent crimes.

Those serving in our military, people struggling with addiction, and those in jail

Those facing famine and hunger in remote and desolate places.

Let the Light of the Lord shine on all peoples in all nations!

**\*\*\* PRESBYTERY JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS \*\*\***

We pray for the churches and ministerial staff that constitute the Lake Erie Presbytery. This week we pray for Oil City, First, Rev. Ronee Christy, Pastor and for Rev. Greg Gillispie, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Lake Erie.





 