

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: 11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 23, 2020

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

SLEEPERS, WAKE! A VOICE IS CALLING
BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN

J. S. BACH

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME , ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of God's glory.
O praise the Lord with me,
let us exalt God's name together.

*** HYMN #49**

THE GOD OF ABRAHAM PRAISE

"LEONI"

1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove,
2 Your spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will.
3 Your good - ly land we seek, with peace and plen - ty blest,
4 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;

the An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love!
In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest.
your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.

The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,
Es - tab-lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,
There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,
We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name:

we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.
and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.
the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!

*** CALL TO CONFESSION**

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Almighty God, you raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him, or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world, and failed to give him glory.

Forgive us, and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Brothers and sisters, hear these words from the scriptures: "Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him and made him many. For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song." (Isaiah 51:1-3)

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

* SUNG RESPONSE #582

GLORY TO GOD, WHOSE GOODNESS SHINES ON ME

"GLORY TO GOD"

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free! As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

PSALM 34:1-9

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. ²My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. ³O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together. ⁴I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. ⁵Look to him, and be radiant; so your ^{la} faces shall never be ashamed. ⁶This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble. ⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. ⁸O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him. ⁹O fear the LORD, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want.

ANTHEM

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

NANCY HODGES, PIANO AND BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN

JOHN STAINER

ARR. SMITH AND HUSTAD

NEW TESTAMENT READING

COLOSSIANS 3:1-3

³ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

SERMON

"ABRAHAM: A FATHER'S LOVE"

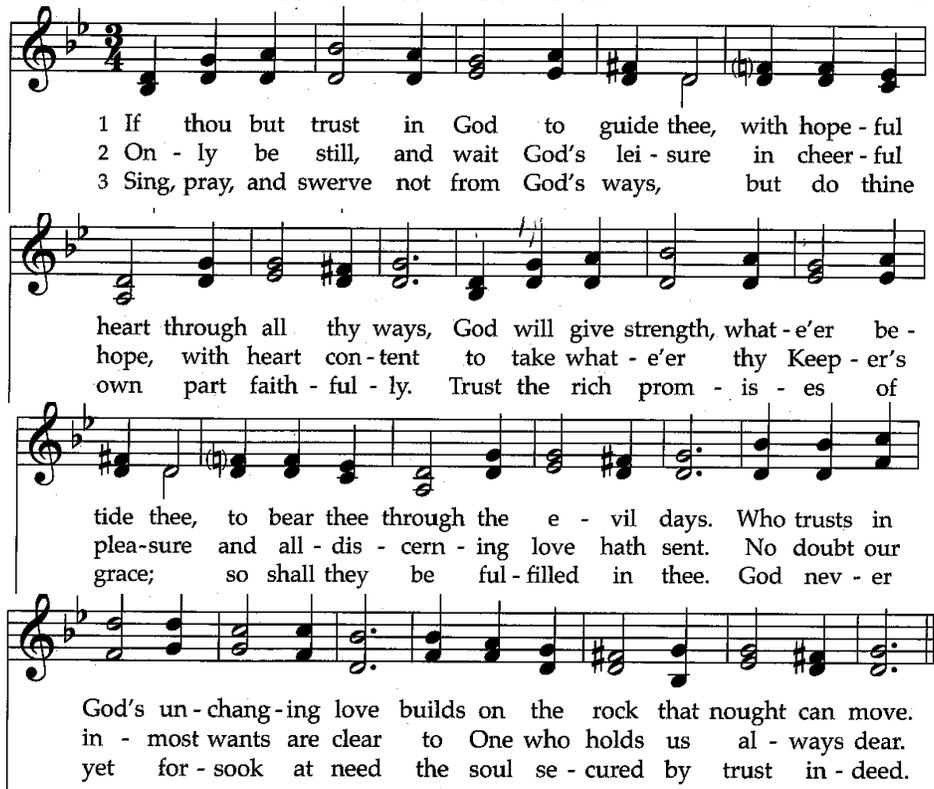
GENESIS 24&25, SELECTED VERSES

REV. DR. JAMES R.M. YOUNG

* HYMN #816

IF THOU BUT TRUST IN GOD TO GUIDE THEE

"WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT"



1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee, with hope-ful
2 On-ly be still, and wait God's lei-sure in cheer-ful
3 Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways, but do thine
heart through all thy ways, God will give strength, what-e'er be-
hope, with heart con-tent to take what-e'er thy Keep-er's
own part faith-ful-ly. Trust the rich prom-is-es of
tide thee, to bear thee through the e-vil days. Who trusts in
plea-sure and all-dis-cern-ing love hath sent. No doubt our
grace; so shall they be ful-filled in thee. God nev-er
God's un-chang-ing love builds on the rock that nought can move.
in-most wants are clear to One who holds us al-ways dear.
yet for-sook at need the soul se-cured by trust in-deed.

ORDINATION OF NEW ELDERS

PRAYERS FOR ONE ANOTHER, OUR COMMUNITY, OUR NATION, ENDING WITH 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.

* HYMN #821

MY LIFE FLOWS ON

"HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING"

1 My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav - ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv-eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Retrain

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.
 Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

* BENEDICTION

* SONG RESPONSE #306

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS
 (Please do not hold hands.)

"DENNIS"

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
 The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

TOCCATA PERPETUA
 BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN

LANI SMITH

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, if you are able, please stand.
 Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

This Morning's Worship Leaders

Preacher..... Rev. Dr. James R.M. Young
 Liturgist.....Josh Gilhart
 Director of Music Ministries.....Bryan Lohr
 Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
 Ushers.....Judy Stern and Kristina Hall

WORSHIP NOTES

The Session met for its stated, monthly meeting this past Thursday, and examined elder-elect Kristina Hall. Her examination being sustained, today she and Evan Swanger (examined previously by the Session) are being ordained as Elders, each to serve a three-year term on the Session.

Highlights from the August Session meeting:

- The church's website has now been updated
- Mission Committee has established ambassadors to be the main contact person(s) for mission projects
- Session approved the Worship Committee's recommendation to continue observing communion with the 'kits' for the foreseeable future
- We will return to alternating the traditional & ecumenical version of the Lord's Prayer beginning in September with the ecumenical version
- Congregational Care Committee is making available the live simulcast of the Sight and Sound Production *Queen Esther* to the congregation on Friday, Sept. 4 at 7 PM here in the church. (More information to be posted)
- Finance thanks all members and friends for their faithfulness in keeping up with pledges and contributions. At this point we are doing ok, with the church currently in the black
- Session approved the Stewardship Committee's recommendation of Jeremiah 29:11 to be this year's theme: *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* Because of the pandemic, the fellowship dinners are not possible this year, so the committee will be working on alternative, creative means to promote stewardship.
- Examined and approved for ordination elder-elect Kristina Hall
- Gave thanks to the Lord for the remarkable energy and faith of members several elders recently experienced, and prayed to the Lord for members known to have recently experienced health and difficulties at this time

SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. DR. JAMES R.M. YOUNG, MODERATOR OF THE SESSION
JEFF GETTY, CLERK

CLASS OF 2021

Bob Courtney: Building & Grounds
Laura Fiscus: Mission
Josh Gilhart: Faith Formation
Aaron Hendrickson: Mission

CLASS OF 2022

Cindy Corley: Administration & Finance
Gary Hendrickson: Administration & Finance
David Stickler: Worship & Music
Evan Swanger: Building & Grounds

CLASS OF 2023

Kristina Hall: Congregational Care & Outreach
Janet Hendershot: Faith Formation
Sharon Kazary: Worship & Music
Jan Layman: Congregational Care & Outreach

MISSION STATEMENT

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship God and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by loving our neighbors and promoting peacemaking, justice and care of the earth.

VISION STATEMENT

We strive to be a community grounded in the good news of God's love in Christ where all of God's children are:

- Welcomed and cherished
- Called to worship, learn and grow together in faith, and
- Sent to share God's love and justice with a broken and hurting world.

Adopted by the Session on September 17, 2015

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of George Williams by his family, Kay, Sarah, Barbara, and Jim. **Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of someone. You may specify live or silk flowers. Silk flower money will be directed to the Special Ministries Fund. We currently have openings for flower sponsorship on September 6th and 27th.**

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: GARY HENDRICKSON & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of August 9 2020
Total 2020 Pledges Promised	\$206,064.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 17,368.00
<u>2020 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$188,696.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$121,076.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$120,403.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 672.00

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

RULING ELDERS: KRISTINA HALL & JAN LAYMAN

WE REJOICE AND ARE GRATEFUL FOR OUR PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED!

- Betty Richtmeyer is back to normal.
- Kaite Ross is doing great - also due to the excellent care of Otto !
- Elva Berry's great-grandson Memphis bounced back as he is young and strong.
- Carolyn Weaver's right knee is healing very well, and even after the stroke, is responding well to the physical therapy.
- Georgine McKenzie's granddaughter Elizabeth is also improving and out of imminent danger.
- Joan Ralston started to walk after taking her meds.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

✠ Polly Eyer (Recovering at Mountain City Center: Nursing and Rehab in Frostburg from a fractured vertebra)

✠ Agnes Yount (Now in Hickory, NC with relatives, recovering from brain surgery)

PRAYER REQUESTS: You can now submit your prayer request on the FPC website. Click the nurture tab and then prayer request.

MISSION

RULING ELDERS: AARON HENDRICKSON & LAURA FISCUS

MISSION OUTREACH DINNER: MISSION OUTREACH DINNER: The monthly outreach dinner will resume **today** at **Christ United Methodist Church, 336 Race Street**. Dinner will be served from 4:00-5:30PM. If anyone can volunteer to serve dinner, help clean tables, and/or provide cupcakes; please let Judy Stern (814-977-8880), Phil Mills, or Linda Smith (301-395-8165) know.