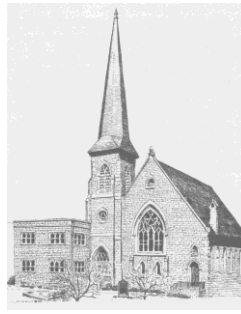


# SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION

AUGUST 15, 2021

10:00 AM



OPENING VOLUNTARY

THANKS BE TO THEE O LORD  
NANCY HODGES, ORGAN

HANDEL, ARR. BY PARKS

10:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Give thanks to the Lord with your whole heart.

**We sing praises to God in the company of the upright.**

Great are the works of our God, full of honor and majesty.

**The righteousness of the Lord endures forever.**

Our God is gracious and merciful, being ever mindful of the covenant.

**The Lord has sent redemption to his people.**

Holy and awesome is the name of the Lord!

**We will praise our God forever!**

Let us pray...

Dwell among us today, O God. Help us to grow in wisdom and understanding so that we may find the courage and the will to walk in your way and live as your people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## \* HYMN #624

*I GREET THEE, WHO MY SURE REDEEMER ART*

"TOULON"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and soul and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## \* 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.

A TIME FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### FIRST READING

RUTH 1:1-18

<sup>1</sup> In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. <sup>2</sup> The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. <sup>3</sup> But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup> These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup> both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

#### **Naomi and Her Moabite Daughters-in-Law**

<sup>6</sup> Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. <sup>7</sup> So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup> But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me." <sup>9</sup> The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. <sup>10</sup> They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." <sup>11</sup> But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? <sup>12</sup> Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, <sup>13</sup> would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." <sup>14</sup> Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

<sup>15</sup> So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." <sup>16</sup> But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. <sup>17</sup> Where you die, I will die—there will I be buried. May the LORD do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!" <sup>18</sup> When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

### ANTHEM

HE'S EVERYTHING TO ME

BY RALPH CARMICHAEL

CAROLYN MATHEWS, VOCALIST AND NANCY HODGES, ORGAN

### SECOND READING

JOHN 6:56-69

<sup>56</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." <sup>59</sup> He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

#### **The Words of Eternal Life**

<sup>60</sup> When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup> It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup> And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

<sup>66</sup> Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."<sup>[a]</sup>

### SERMON

"TURING POINT"

REV. DR. WALT PETERS

### \* HYMN #724

O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED

"ANGEL'S STORY"

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

*(We are now passing the offering plates.*

*Please place all tithes and offerings as well as any orange prayer request cards in the offering plate.)*

MUSICAL OFFERING

PSALM  
NANCY HODGES, ORGAN

YOUNG

\* DOXOLOGY #609

PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

"LASST UNS ERFREUEN"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low;

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE CONCLUDING 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 #839

BLESSED ASSURANCE, JESUS IS MINE!

"ASSURANCE"

\* BENEDICTION

\* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #306

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS

"DENNIS"

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.

The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

POSTLUDE

POSTLUDE ON "HIDING" PLACE  
NANCY HODGES, ORGAN

BRICHWOOD

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\* 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. Walt Peters  
Liturgist.....Hans Killius  
Organist.....Nancy Hodges  
Musicians.....Carolyn Mathews, Vocalist  
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler  
Ushers.....Bob and Sharon Kazary

## WORSHIP NOTES

**CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** In accordance with G-1.0502 in the Book of Order, Session has approved a Called Congregational Meeting for **next Sunday, August 22, 2021** immediately after the 10:00 A.M. worship service at the request of the Pastor Nominating Committee. The purpose of the Called Congregational Meeting is to hear the report of the PNC and their recommendation to elect a pastor to serve this church. Please make every effort to attend this meeting as the vote will have a significant influence on the worship and work of our congregation.

# SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## CLERK OF SESSION

David Stickler

## ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Cindy Corley & Gary Hendrickson

## BUILDING & GROUNDS

Bob Courtney & Evan Swanger

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

Jan Layman & Mikayla Dodge

## FAITH FORMATION

Josh Gilhart & Katie Ross

## MISSION

Aaron Hendrickson & Judy Stern

## WORSHIP & MUSIC

Sharon Kazary & Carl Belt

## 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

**WELCOME:** A very warm welcome to everyone who comes to worship with us here at First Presbyterian Church! We are proud of being a "Big Tent Church" where everyone is welcome to join us in worshipping and serving our Lord, Jesus Christ. We welcome and encourage worshipers of all races, all women, men, and members of the LGBTQ+ community, all political parties, and all walks of life. We welcome you to worship with us.

**WELCOME VISITORS:** We are glad you found your way to First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland. For more information about opportunities to worship, learn and serve with us, we encourage you to visit the table outside the church office. You can also learn more about us at [www.fpc-cumberland.org](http://www.fpc-cumberland.org) and [www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland](http://www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland).

**CHILDREN IN WORSHIP:** We welcome you to bring your child with you to worship. We have "worship bags" in the back of the sanctuary that include materials for drawing and coloring, as well as Bible stories and Bible word-find games. Our "Young Children in Worship" pew card contains information about why young children should be encouraged to come to worship and how parents and others can engage them more fully in worship.

**THE PRAY-GROUND** is a special space in the sanctuary for our youngest children and their families. All families are welcome to come and sit in the right front pews with their children seated on the rug. This front row seat will allow God's youngest children to participate in the service in a place where they can see and hear best. There will be activities provided so that their little hands are kept busy while participating in worship. "Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it'" (Mark 10:14-15).

**FRIENDSHIP PADS:** Please locate and sign the red pad in your pew, tear off the sheet and place it in the collection plate during the offering. This important practice allows us to be mindful of new folks and long-time members as well, and is a good way to learn (or remember) the names of those with whom you are seated. **If you are visitor, please fill out the “Welcome to First Presbyterian Church” card in the pew rack and put it in the offering plate when it comes by during the service.**

**PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES:** (amplifiers) are available in the back of the church for use during worship. Please see an usher for assistance.

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS:** The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of of Donald F. Evans by his wife, Joan Evans, and in loving memory of Anne and Raymond MacDonald, by their daughter, Joan Evans. The flowers in the the sanctuary this morning are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of their son, and in celebration of their 67<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary today, by Bill and Carlotta Shaffer. 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.

**SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS:** Please use orange prayer request cards in the back of the sanctuary by the bulletins to share any joys and concerns. Place the card in the offering plate once you have completed your request. The ushers will bring them to the pastor during the offering.

### ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

**RULING ELDERS: GARY HENDRICKSON & CINDY CORLEY**

<b>ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:</b>	<b>as of August 8, 2021</b>
Total 2021 Pledges Promised	\$192,124.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 400.00
<u>2021 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$191,724.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$123,182.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$120,384.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 2,798.00

**STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN:** Planning for this year’s stewardship campaign has been delayed with the hope of including our new pastor in the planning process.

### WORSHIP & MUSIC

**RULING ELDERS: SHARON KAZARY & BUCK BELT**

**COVID-19 UPDATE:** While the Delta Variant is threatening our country, the Worship and Music Committee is recommending that we forego holding hands while we sing “Blessed be the Tie That Binds” at the end of the service. Please sing or hum from your pews.

The Worship and Music Committee is consulting with local medical authorities concerning the regional trend of the virus. If our area begins to have more severe virus activity, we will have further recommendations for our worship time.

**SUMMER GARDEN HARVEST:** On **Sunday, August 29, 2021**, our congregation will be celebrating our Summer Garden Harvest. Please bring examples of your produce to church. We are hoping to decorate the sanctuary with our own fruits, vegetables, and flowers. Following the service, depending on the volume of vegetables and flowers, we could donate our produce to the Union Rescue Mission, the Food Bank, or our shut-ins.

## FAITH FORMATION

RULING ELDERS: JOSH GILHART & KATIE ROSS

During our Fall Kick-Off on September 12, we will be holding a “Blessing of the Backpacks.” This blessing is for all those students, teachers, parents, and anyone resuming their hectic schedules this fall. We look forward to seeing you there!

In conjunction with this blessing, we have reached out to the Mission committee to discuss opportunities in the community to help students. The Cumberland YMCA is organizing a new program, **At Risk After School**, which offers an afterschool meal for children who qualify for reduced lunches in the Allegany County School System. Currently, 30 to 35 children participate in this program and meals are offered five days a week.

The Faith Formation Committee would like to encourage you to give towards this good cause to help feed the children of our community. Donations may be placed in the offering plate in an envelope marked “At Risk After School” or mailed into the church. **Please make any checks out to First Presbyterian Church Cumberland, MD with a note of: At Risk After School YMCA.**

1 John 3:18 says “Dear Children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” We hope you will take the time to give to this worthy cause today.

Thank you,

Faith Formation Team

