

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FALL KICKOFF

ROCKY GAP STATE PARK



SEPTEMBER 12, 2021
11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

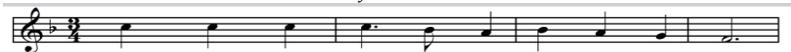
MORNING HAS BROKEN
JUDITH BROWN, KEYBOARD

GAELIC TUNE
ARR. AND ED. ERVIN MONROE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING
LED BY JULIE COURTNEY



I. Praise and thanks-giv - ing let ev - ery-one bring



un - to our Fa - ther for ev - ery good thing.



All to - geth - er, joy - ful - ly sing!

WORDS: st. 1. Abbot; st. 2. Edith Lovell Thomas, 1950; st. 3. 1. Marie 1. Puse, 1974

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER OF THE DAY

-FROM PSALM 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
And the firmament proclaims the handiwork of the Lord.
Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.
Their voice goes out to all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.
The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
The decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;
The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;

The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;
 The ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
 More to be desired are they than gold, and sweeter than honey.
 So let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
 be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Let us pray...

God of wisdom and love, renew our sense of awe and wonder as we gather before you this day. Speak to us by your Word and touch us with your Spirit. Give us eyes to see the beauty all around us, and teach us your ways so that we may become the people you intend us to be, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* HYMN #664

MORNING HAS BROKEN

"BUNESSAN"

1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black-bird has
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet-ness of the wet
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion; praise ev - ery

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, time after time you have seen us through difficult seasons and yet we struggle to trust in your faithfulness. We live in fear instead of faith. We depend on our own efforts instead of your love. We do not follow your way and then assume that you do not care for us. Forgive us, we pray. Open our eyes to your on-going presence in our lives and in our world. Fill us with hope and joy, and send us out to share the good news we have come to know through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* SUNG RESPONSE #437

YOU ARE THE LORD, GIVER OF MERCY

"WAYFARING STRANGER"

You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!

You are the Christ, giv-er of mer-cy!

You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!

A TIME FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

JOSHUA 24 (SELECTED VERSES)

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestor lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. And when Jacob's children were made captive in Egypt I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt; and afterwards I brought you out. When the Egyptians pursued them, they cried out to the LORD; and your eyes saw what I did to Egypt. And when you had lived in the wilderness a long time I brought you to the land of the Amorites, and I handed them over to you. And when King Balak of Moab sent Balaam to curse you, I rescued you out of his hand. And when Jericho fought against you, and also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; and I handed them all over to you. I gave you a land on which you had not labored, and towns that you had not built, and you live in them; you eat the fruit of vineyards and olive yards that you did not plant.

"Now therefore revere the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

The people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. He protected us along all the way that we went. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

Then Joshua said to the people, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

ANTHEM

WHISPERING HOPE

BY ALICE HAWTHORNE

JULIE COURTNEY, MIKAYLA DODGE AND ERIC RINGLER, VOCALIST

SECOND READING

I CORINTHIANS 1:10-18

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,^[a] by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters.^[b] ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God^[c] that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

Christ the Power and Wisdom of God

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

SERMON

"CHANGING OF THE GUARD"

REV. DR. WALT PETERS

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright
 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to
 now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

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

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

JUDITH BROWN, KEYBOARD

"ROYAL OAK"

ARR. BRIAN JOYCE

* DOXOLOGY #607

PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

"OLD HUNDRETH"

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all peo - ple
 here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;
 praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

* HYMN #298

LORD, YOU GIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION

"ABBOT'S LEIGH"

1 Lord, you give the great com-mis-sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser-vice: "In my name bap-
 3 Lord, you make the com-mon ho-ly: "This, my bod-y;
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea-sure: "Fa-ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as-sur-ing: "I am with you

preach the word." Lest the church ne-glect its mis-sion, and the
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom-ise, life a-
 this, my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo-ry, dai-ly
 do, for-give." Yet we hoard as pri-verse trea-sure all that
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re-stor-ing, may we

gos-pel go un-heard, help us wit-ness to your
 bun-dant meant for each, give us all new fer-vor,
 lift life heav-en-ward, ask-ing that the world a-
 you so free-ly give. May your care and mer-cy
 serve as you in-tend, and, a-mid the cares that

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #748

GOD WITH US, LORD

"TALLIS' CANON"

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and
 ev-ery com-ing day, that in your Spir-it
 strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

* 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.....Cathy Levitas
 Keyboardist.....Judith Brown
 Musicians.....Julie Courtney, Mikayla Dodge and Eric Ringler, Vocalists
 Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
 Ushers.....Bob and Sharon Kazary

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

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