



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FEBRUARY 20, 2022

11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

VOLUNTARY IN A
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

WILLIAM SELBY (1738-1798)

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

I'VE GOT PEACE LIKE A RIVER
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN
Reflective Text:

"PEACE LIKE A RIVER"

I've got peace like a river in my soul
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul
I've got love like an ocean in my soul

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

In this sacred space,
We trust in the Holy Spirit.
On this sabbath day,
We take delight in Jesus Christ.
Among the faithful,
We commit your way to the Lord and worship God with gladness!

Let us pray -

God of abundant mercy, you alone can turn evil into good, sorrow into rejoicing, and death into everlasting life. Teach us your way of grace— to meet hatred with kindness, to answer curses with blessing, to love without holding back, to give without thought of return; all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* HYMN #410

GOD IS CALLING THROUGH THE WHISPER

"W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY"

(Pastor Alison will be singing the verses, we invite you to hum along and reflect on the lyrics.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Teacher of hard truths, it is difficult to let go of our anger toward those who prosper through deceitful ways; it is not easy to make ourselves believe that the meek will inherit the earth, when they are being crushed by the unjust systems stacked against them. We long to see the vindication of the righteous and the prosperity of those who work selflessly to bring your realm here on earth. We yearn for the day when all people will treat one another as they wish to be treated. Help us live into that day, Holy One, even when it is difficult, that your love might shine like the sun through our lives and our ministries. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE AND CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

We recognize how important we are to each other - as we worship, we pass the peace of Christ from our seats and wave to those who are joining us via Livestream. We belong to each other and are stronger together.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40

- ¹ Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers,
² for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.
³ Trust in the LORD, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
⁴ Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.
⁶ He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
⁷ Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.
⁸ Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
⁹ For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.
¹⁰ Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.
¹¹ But the meek shall inherit the land, and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.
³⁹ The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their refuge in the time of trouble.
⁴⁰ The LORD helps them and rescues them; he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

ANTHEM

LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF THY PEACE

JOHN RUTTER (1945 -)

JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

Reflective Text:

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace;
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
 Where there is injury, pardon;
 Where there is doubt, faith;
 Where there is despair, hope;
 Where there is darkness, light;
 Where there is sadness, joy;
 And all for Thy mercy's sake,
 O divine master, grant that I may not so much
 Seek to be consoled as to console;
 To be understood as to understand;
 To be loved as to love;
 For it is in giving that we receive;
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
 And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

SECOND READING

LUKE 6:27-38

- ²⁷ "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.
³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.^[a] Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

SERMON "TOUGH LESSONS" REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #795 HEALER OF OUR EVERY III "HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL"
(Pastor Alison will be singing the verses, we invite you to hum along and reflect on the lyrics.)

INVITATION TO OFFERING
(Please place all tithes and offerings as well as any orange prayer request cards in the offering plate.)

OFFERTORY ALLEGRO IN A MINOR 18TH CENTURY ENGLISH
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

* DOXOLOGY #608 PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW "PRAISE GOD (HOPSON)"
(Pastor Alison will be singing and we invite you to hum along and reflect on the lyrics.)
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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 #819 BE STILL, MY SOUL "FINLANDIA"
(Pastor Alison will be singing the verses, we invite you to hum along and reflect on the lyrics.)

* BENEDECTION

* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDECTION INSTRUMENTAL "AMEN"

POSTLUDE VOLUNTARY IN D JOHN ALCOCK (1715-1806)
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

* 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. Alison Peters
Liturgist.....Sharon Kazary
Organist.....Judith Brown
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....Kathy Dowell and Evan Swanger

Music Notes

John Rutter, contemporary British composer, originally set the beautiful St. Francis of Assisi prayer as a choral anthem in 1980. He then also arranged the piano solo played this morning. If you listen carefully you will hear a beautiful melody played in the right hand which corresponds to St. Francis' prayer.

OUR STAFF

Teaching Elder/Pastor.....	Rev. Alison Peters
Director of Music Ministries	Judith Brown
Executive Administrative Assistant.....	Brittany Jackson
Sexton.....	Zach Dodge
Sound Tech/Security.....	Joe Aurigemma
Audio/Video Technician.....	Eric Ringler

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

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 worshiping and serving our Lord, Jesus Christ. We welcome and encourage worshippers 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 and 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: 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

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of February 13, 2022
Total 2022 Pledges Promised	\$202,976.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 31,100.00
<u>2021 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$171,876.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$ 25,218.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 23,137.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 2,080.00

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2022 are now available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. If you do not see a box with your name on it, please contact the church office.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

RULING ELDERS: BOB COURTNEY & EVAN SWANGER

FPC SNOW POLICY

Sunday School — The Pastor and Co-Chairs of the Faith Formation committee will monitor the forecast and come to a decision by Friday evening. If Sunday School is canceled, announcements will be sent out via email, Facebook, and, if possible, text message.

Worship — Worship will be canceled only in the most extreme weather conditions. If indicated, the Pastor and the Co-chairs of the Worship & Music and Buildings & Grounds committees will consult and make a decision. If worship is canceled, announcements will be made on radio stations including WCBC 1270 AM (and on their website Snow Watch list) and by e-mail to church members Facebook, and the church website.

MISSION
RULING ELDERS: AARON HENDRICKSON & JUDY STERN

Why War? notes from Ukraine

I often get emails: Are you in Ukraine? Are you safe? When are you coming back to the states? I heard you have 48 hours to leave? Many who write are church members and ministers.

Yes, I am safe. In case of war, I can leave if necessary. But most likely, I will shoot with my camera.

When you live in Ukraine, it's hard to believe Russia will invade. Ukraine is full of Russians and Russia is full of Ukrainians. Krushev, for example, was Ukrainian. Everyone will be killing their own people.

Why this war? It's what many Ukrainians ask. Ukraine is hardly a threat to Russia. The likely answer is Putin's greed and the greed of oligarchs behind him. Those in power who manufacture an enemy or a threat, stay in power.

If you are a person who prays or who leads prayers in worship, I ask for your prayers for Ukraine.

Dr. Robert Gamble D.Min, PC(USA)
Executive Director, thischildhere.org

WORSHIP & MUSIC
RULING ELDERS: SHARON KAZARY & BUCK BELT

COVID-19 UPDATE: The Worship and Music Committee and Staff are closely monitoring the rise in COVID-19 cases as a result of the Omicron variant.

To care for our members, we are putting a few extra precautions in place to keep our community safe:

- We will continue to mask in our buildings: we recommend using N-95, KN-95, or medical-grade masks if you have them
- We will continue to spread out our seating by family units in our sanctuary
- We will return to humming during the hymns

Please stay home and worship online if you are not feeling well.