



Pentecost, Titian, 1545, Santa Maria della Salute, Venice, Italy, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

23 May 2021
Day of Pentecost

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

Order of Worship

Prayer of Preparation

God of newness and delight, you greet your world again with light and life. I awaken to your presence behind, before, beneath, above, and within me. I thank you for another day and ask only that you keep me so firmly in your care that I can move gracefully through all I have to do. Guard my family, my friends, and all my brothers and sisters in faith. Let me be a peacemaker today, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Welcome

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *We Pray Now to the Holy Spirit* Buxtehude

***Call to Worship** adapted from Psalm 104:24-34

How many are your works, LORD!

In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number—living things both large and small.

All creatures look to you

to give them their food at the proper time.

When you give it to them, they gather it up;

when you open your hand,

they are satisfied with good things.

When you hide your face, they are terrified;

when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust.

When you send your Spirit, they are created,

and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;

may the LORD rejoice in his works—

I will sing to the LORD all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

May my meditation be pleasing to him,

as I rejoice in the LORD.

Let us worship God!

Anthem

On Pentecost They Gathered

Huber/1693

Confession

Holy and Merciful God, we do not know how to pray as we ought, and we know too well our constant failures to do as you have commanded and to hold fast to your word. Forgive us for the divisions we nurture, guide us to your way, keep us in your care, and lead us into faith. We trust your word that the Spirit of truth will show us all things and grant us courage and peace. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Summary of the Law

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and the first commandment. And a second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Matthew 22:37-39

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson

Acts 2:1-21 & Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

*Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Anthem *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!* Dill/Darwall

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

*The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given
to the glory of God by Linda Chagnon
in birthday remembrance of her son, David F. Ruth.*

The Lord's Supper

Invitation
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer
Words of Institution
Communion of the People
Prayer after Communion

Benediction

Choral Response *Jesus, Remember Me* Berthier/Taizé

Postlude *Fanfare on an Original Theme* Martin

If you have not already done so, please place your offering in the marked basket nearest the exit you use. We look forward to seeing you again next week.

A special thank you to our ushers!

Liturgist: The Rev. Lloyd Griffith

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Members of the Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nursery Open!

The nursery has reopened for the 11am service (from 10:30am-noon) for children, infants through second grade.

New Adult Class “Read This Book” started

JOIN US for Read This Book every Sunday, 9:30-10:30am on Zoom and in person (in the large central classroom on the second floor of the Ministry Center). Each week a different person will present a book that informed, challenged, or inspired them, and connected with their faith. You don't have to attend every week to participate in the class, and friends and family are welcome to attend! To be included on the email list for the class, contact Maren (maren@firstpresnb.org).

Here is the schedule of upcoming presenters:

- **May 23** Jim Copland “The Telling: How Judaism's Essential Book Reveals the Meaning of Life” by Mark Gerson
- **May 30** Janet Benrey Swain “Why Social Justice Is Not Biblical Justice: An Urgent Appeal to Fellow Christians in a Time of Social Crisis” by Scott David Allen
- **June 6** Wendy Moeller "Surprised by Oxford", "Sex and the City of God", and "Holy Is the Day" by Carolyn Weber
- **June 13** Maren Sonstegard-Spray “The Rise and Fall of the Bible: The Unexpected History of an Accidental Book” by Timothy Beal

Adult Sunday school class “The Present Word”

Not meeting Today, Sunday May 23!

George Evans is leading "The Present Word class: Call in the New Testament". The class meets online Sunday morning 9:30-10:30am using Zoom. Please contact George Evans (gkevans4@gmail.com) to receive a meeting room ID and password. The book is available in the church office.

Nursery Worker Recruitment

First Presbyterian Church is looking for two Nursery Workers and a Nursery Coordinator to care for our infant to four-year-old children on Sunday mornings and at special services. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, have experience in caring for young children, complete a background check and complete CPR training for infants and children. Hours for the positions are normally 8:00 am – 12:30 pm. Interested individuals should send a resume to the Office Administrator at church@firstpresnb.org.

Reception Desk Volunteer Opportunity

Would you like to help out at the Church Office's Reception Desk? Do you have 4 hours that you could give to the church? We have returned to normal business hours, but we need your help. We are looking for those who can let their smiles show through in their voices on the phones or in their eyes when greeting visitors (we are still masking). Don't worry if you are not familiar with the ins and outs of the office equipment. We are more than happy to teach you. Hours of shifts are 9am-1pm or 1pm-5pm Monday through Thursday, and 9am-1pm on Fridays. If you are interested or have questions, please contact our Office Administrator, Marcy Latteman.

Flower Calendar

Have you thought about ordering flowers in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one? Immediate dates available are in June (13th, 20th, 27th) and July (11th and 25th). Other dates are available throughout the year. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

New Church Library Location

The church library has moved to the second floor of the Ministry Center – come and check it out! At the moment we are NOT accepting new book donations.

Montreat Women's Conference 2021 – Discount Available

Join us at the Montreat Women's Connection Conference Friday-Sunday, August 13-15! The conference was postponed for a year, but we held on to our room reservations in the Assembly Inn (with an elevator and air-conditioning), and we have a couple of rooms available for those who had not previously registered. Registration cost includes program, room, and meals. Transportation is on your own or on the church bus. We are offering a discount on the cost of the registration from the McClary Scholarship fund to make it easier to attend the conference! Please contact Maren to learn more about the discount and/or to register. Childcare is available at Montreat for children aged six months through preschool.

Care Commission

The Care Commission Call Team is making annual congregational calls. This is an opportunity to share joys & concerns, request prayers, update Directory listings and get church news. So when your phone rings, please take a few minutes to participate in this Care ministry, strengthening our ties through connecting with one another.

“The Spirit arrives incognito, bringing the indwelling love of God. Those who do not refuse it become lovers of the only God there is, because the only God there is has loved them first.”
- Charles Hefling

Trusting that God's grace embraces and makes covenant with all believers, First Presbyterian Church intends to be an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all people. All persons are welcomed into this fellowship and membership regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic or racial identity, economic or educational status, or political affiliation.