



Mary's Pondering, Daniel Bonnell, 1999-2000, used with permission of artist.

6 June 2021

2nd Sunday After 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 days, we praise your name, for your grace sustains us.
We wait for you, Lord, for your word strengthens us. Our outer
nature is wasting away day by day, but our inner nature is being
renewed by your daily bread. Grant us the eyes to see what
cannot be seen and to gaze on what is eternal. May we revel in
your work and be a visible witness of your invisible kingdom.
In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.*

Welcome

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude

Aria

J.S. Bach

*Call to Worship

adapted from Psalm 130

With God, there is:

Forgiveness.

Steadfast love.

Great power to redeem.

We wait for the Lord,

who is our hope.

Through the long night,

we watch for God more passionately

than for the sun's first light!

Let us worship God!

Anthem *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!* Heber/Dykes

Confession

**Merciful God, we try to hide from your presence,
knowing that we have traded your abundant life for a
wasteland of sin. We have not followed your will, but instead
heed other voices and pursue our own desires at the expense
of others. We are so misguided that we cannot discern good
from evil, making the wrong choice, choosing the wrong side.
We ask for the courage to tell you truthfully what we have
done. We pray for forgiveness so that we can live with**

ourselves, with others, and with you. You alone can restore us. In steadfast love, look upon us and reclothe us in your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Psalm 130

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

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

***Affirmation of Faith**

A Declaration of Faith (PCUSA 1991) Chapter 5(8)

The Spirit is one with the Father and the Son.

In the presence of the Holy Spirit the first Christians experienced God's own presence, not a power different from God or less than God. In Jesus Christ they met God himself, not a second God or one who is only like God. Yet they worshiped with the people of Israel one God alone.

Reflecting on this mystery, the ancient church formulated the doctrine of the Trinity. We believe with the church through the centuries that God is what he has shown himself to be in his story with his people:

**One God who is the Creator and Sustainer,
the Savior and Lord,
the Giver of life within, among, and beyond us.**

We affirm the unity of God's being and work. We may not separate the work of God as Creator from the work of God as Redeemer. We may not set the Son's love against the Father's justice. We may not value the Holy Spirit's work above the work of the Father and Son.

**The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are one God.
We affirm richness and variety in God's being and work.
We may not deny the real distinctions in God's unity.
In his eternal being and in all his activity,
the one God is always and at the same time
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

Anthem *Praise the Lord! O Heavens Adore Him* Burkhardt

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

*The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of
God and in loving memory of his son, Matt, by Paul Inserra.*

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Postlude *When Morning Gilds the Skies* Ridout

**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!

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Oboist: Lauren Blackerby

Lauren is the daughter of Jim and Cheryl Blackerby and
granddaughter of Nick Blackerby.

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.

Virtual VBS is coming soon!

We're so excited to announce that BOLT: Totally 80s VBS is coming to your house this summer! With minimal preparation, easy-to-follow instructions, and a video that leads your family step-by-step through each day, BOLT is designed to bring the fun and faith-formation of VBS to your home!

Depending on your pace, you can expect that each day's experience will last about an hour and a half. It's great for kids 5 and up - even middle and high school kids can enjoy it!

We will have a Zoom Orientation TODAY at 12:30. During this time, we will share some insight into what your family can expect during BOLT: Totally 80's VBS. The digital videos, materials, and activities will be available on our website starting the week of June 7. Our hope is to have as many families as possible participate in these RAD activities at-home the week of June 7-10. However, BOLT gives you and your family the flexibility to choose the dates and times you participate.

We will also have packets for you to pick up at our church office. While it is not required for you to pick up a packet to participate in BOLT: Totally 80s VBS, it is highly encouraged! These packets will have ready to go supplies for many of the at-home activities that correspond with the online videos and will make your at-home experience much easier and much more fulfilling!

Mark your calendars for our Zoom meeting AND a fun-filled four days of at-home VBS coming soon!

Adult Sunday school Class “Read This Book”

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:

- **June 6** Wendy Moeller "Surprised by Oxford", "Sex and the City of God", and "Holy Is the Day" by Carolyn Weber
- **June 13** Ken Wilkins “Transcendent Kingdom: A Novel” by Yaa Gyasi
- **June 20** Lloyd Griffith “Soul Force: A Story about the Rebirthing of Divine Presence in a Postmodern World” by Lloyd Griffith
- **June 27** Elaine Berberich “Learning to Pray: a guide for everyone” by Fr. James Martin

Adult Sunday school class “The Present Word”

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. 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? Thanks to those who signed up for the Sundays in June and July! Available dates in August are the 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd. Other dates are available throughout the year. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

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.

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.