



Christ and the Woman Taken in Adultery, Pieter Perret, 1579, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

13 June 2021
3rd Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

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.

Order of Worship

Prayer of Preparation

“I was glad when they said unto me, ‘Let us go into the house of the Lord!’” So, here we are, dear God. Called by you to this sacred space, to this dedicated time. In this assembly, among your people, may we let go of our distracting concerns. Allow us to focus on your complete love for us. In the music, in the words read and proclaimed, in the faces of those we greet, may we sense the undergirding of your Spirit. Send us forth to share your love, redeemed, restored, renewed. Amen.

Welcome

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude

Breathe on me, Breath of God

Hayes

*Call to Worship

from Psalm 146

Praise the Lord, O my soul.

I will praise the Lord all my life.

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

**Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortal men, who cannot save.**

**When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day, their plans come to nothing.**

Blessed is he whose help is in the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord his God,
the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them –
the Lord who remains faithful forever.

**He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.**

**The Lord sets prisoners free,
the Lord gives sight to the blind,
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,
the Lord loves the righteous.**

The Lord watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and
the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

**The Lord reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all
generations. Praise the Lord! Let us worship God!**

Confession

Gracious God, you hung the stars in space, yet you always long to hear our humble prayers. You set the earth spinning on its axis, yet you gently and lovingly respond to our pleas. While we may not be mindful of you, O God, you are always mindful of us. Awaken us anew to your life-giving love. We have strayed from the course you have charted for us. Wearing blinders of self-involvement, we have ignored the needs of others. Forgive our transgressions and our omissions, dear Lord. Restore us to be your fruitful servants. May we extend to others this same forgiveness you promise to us. In the name of Christ, we offer this prayer. 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

John 8:1-11

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

Sermon

The Woman Caught in Adultery Elder Steve Mabie

*Affirmation of Faith

from The Confession of Belhar

We believe that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged; that God calls the church to follow him in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry; that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind; that God supports the downtrodden, protects the

stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly; that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering; that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right; that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream; that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

Anthem *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus* Lemmel/Mauldin

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Michael and Jeanette Avery to the glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of Elspeth Avery and David White.

We also celebrate the 90th birthday of Margie Shelton.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Postlude *Fairest Lord Jesus* Willis

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. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Pianist: Cindy Sutton

Ensemble: Beth Foley, Sue Jones, Susan Mabie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Date

Our new Pastor/Head of Staff, the Rev. Dr. Anna Straight's first Sunday is July 4th! There will be a welcome reception following each service.

Nursery Open

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

Nursery Worker Recruitment

First Presbyterian Church is looking for two paid Nursery Workers and a paid 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.

Virtual VBS – Packets available

We're so excited to announce that BOLT: Totally 80s VBS is coming to your house this summer and *can be done at any time!* 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! This virtual VBS is designed to be completed over four days, but those days can be spread out however you want!

Flower Calendar

The flower calendar is filling up fast! The next available dates for flowers are August 1 and September 26. Other dates are available throughout the year. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

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 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
- **July 4** No Class!

Adult Sunday school class “The Present Word”

George Evans is leading "The Present Word class: Call in the New Testament". The class meets IN PERSON Sunday morning 9:40-10:40am in the Session House Parlor. Please contact George Evans (gkevans4@gmail.com) with questions. The book is available in the church office.

Reception Desk Volunteer Opportunity

Would you like to help 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.

African Jewelry Making Workshop

Arts to End Genocide (ATEG) and Faith Connection will have a workshop in African Jewelry Making on Saturday, August 21, in the First Presbyterian Church J. Murphy Smith Center gymnasium. There will be two sessions (limit 125 each); 12:30-2:00 and 2:30-4:00. Reservations are recommended: 252-481-4772. Participants will receive a free packet of beads and materials to make a bracelet and/or earrings. Additional packets and/or individual beads will be available for purchase. This event is a benefit to help fund the relocation of 500 children out of a garbage dump in Bamako, Mali, West Africa, to a safer and healthier location.

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.

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