



*Storm on the Sea of Galilee, Rembrandt van Rijn, 1633, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.*

20 June 2021

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World



## Assurance of Pardon

### Summary of the Law

Matthew 22:37-39

**“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.’”**

### Prayer for Illumination

#### Lesson

Mark 4:35-41 & Job 38:1-11

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 2 (2)

God sustains the goodness of creation.

**God called all he had made good. We declare that the universe of matter, energy, and life is God's good creation in all its parts. Even though evil has emerged within God's creation, we may work and play in it and explore it with wonder and joy.**

**Evil is whatever works against the loving purpose of God for human beings and all creation. Natural forces may have evil effects. Sinful human choices produce evil results. Evil may become institutionalized in our social structures. The power of evil to hurt and destroy, to cut off the possibilities of full human life, calls into question the power and goodness of God.**

**Whether we understand evil personally or impersonally, we cannot explain how it originated in a world made good.**

**But we can affirm that evil is God's enemy as well as ours.**

**In Christ, God shared our agony over evil and broke the back of its power by bearing the worst it could do. God works continually to overcome evil. In the end it will be utterly defeated. Therefore, we have courage to endure evil, to learn from it, and combat it.**

#### Anthem

*Be Still, My Soul*

von Schlegel/ Sibelius

## **Joys and Concerns of the Congregation**

*The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Betsy Conzelman to the glory of God and to commemorate the burial of the ashes of Peter and Bobbie Conzelman at the United States Military Academy Cemetery at West Point, NY, this past Friday.*

*We also celebrate the birth of August Joshua Bird Wentz on June 12. He is the son of Kristopher and Catherine Wentz, and the grandson of Josh and Denise Willey.*

## **Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer**

### **Benediction**

**Postlude**                      *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*                      Wold

**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: Lloyd Griffith

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Members of the Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs

11:00 Sanctuary Bells

Cover Image: Rembrandt's only seascape was stolen in 1990 from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum of Boston.

Prayers reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion. Copyright 2014.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Save the Date**

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

### **Nametags**

As more and more of the congregation is returning to worship in person after not seeing one another in quite a while AND in anticipation of Anna's arrival, we want to encourage everyone to get in the habit of wearing your nametags again! If you have misplaced yours, Marcy, our Office Administrator, is happy to make you another one (marcy@firstpresnb.org). There is a board in the Narthex where you can leave your nametag at the end of the service, and it will be waiting for you the next Sunday.

### **Welcoming Tip of the Month**

Many First Presbyterians love to sit at the end of the pew, while that middle section often has empty spots. Sometimes latecomers need a seat. When someone taps on your shoulder to get one of those empty seats in the middle, it's an opportunity for you to offer a warm welcome. You can quickly stand, offer a smile, and make room for that individual. Or...you could even slide over a couple of seats to the middle!

First Presbyterian Church identifies itself as a welcoming community of faith and intends to be an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all people. The Welcoming Committee over the months will be offering you monthly tips to strengthen the hospitality of our congregation.

### **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 [marcy@firstpresnb.org](mailto:marcy@firstpresnb.org).

### **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](mailto:maren@firstpresnb.org)).

Here is the schedule of upcoming presenters:

- **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!
- **July 11** Stacey Griffith "Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels" by Ken Bailey

### **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](mailto:gkevans4@gmail.com)) with questions. The book is available in the church office.

### **Flower Calendar**

Do you have a family birthday, anniversary, or memorial date coming up this fall? Currently, September 26 and October 10 are open. Other dates are available throughout the year. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

## **Food 4 U**

Our Food 4 U program has been restarted and is ready to go. The only thing we need is food FROM you! Food 4 U is (will be) available to be picked up anytime for your family or someone you know who needs it. There is a freezer in the Session House kitchen and containers in the pantry there. Take a container home for the next time you have extra soup, casserole or whatever and bring it in. Labels are also provided. Thank you for thinking of and caring for each other in this way! Questions? Call Polly Frank, 703-927-4626.

## **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!

## **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.

## **Notes**

*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.*