



Journey with Jesus, by He Qi
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4 July 2021
6th 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

St. Catherine of Siena

O eternal Trinity, my sweet love!

You, light, give us light.

You, wisdom, give us wisdom.

You, supreme strength, strengthen us.

Today, eternal God, let our cloud be dissipated

*so that we may perfectly know and follow Your Truth in truth,
with a free and simple heart. God, come to our assistance!*

Lord, make haste to help us! Amen.

Welcome

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude

How Firm a Foundation
(American folk tune, 1832)

Lovelace

Introit

My Country 'Tis of Thee

Smith/1744

*Call to Worship

from Psalm 48

Great is the Lord

and greatly to be praised.

Your name, O God, like your praise,

reaches to the ends of the earth.

This is God, our God forever and ever.

He will be our guide forever.

Let us worship God!

Hymn

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

Bates/Ward

You are invited to open your hymnal to Hymn 338 and hum along.

Confession

You are love, O God, and you have loved us from the beginning. Forgive us when we do not share your love with the world: when we choose selfishness over compassion; what feels comfortable rather than what is right; when we strive for success instead of faithfulness, when we value independence over community. Forgive us, O God, of the

ways we fall short. Free us to try again, and let your love lead the way. Amen.

Silent Confession

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 6:1-13

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

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Anna Straight

*Affirmation of Faith

from A Declaration of Faith (PCUSA 1991)

We believe in one true and living God.

**We acknowledge one God alone,
whose demands on us are absolute,
whose help for us is sufficient.**

That One is the Lord, whom we worship, serve and love.

God made us for life in community.

God created human beings

with a need for community

and with freedom to enter into it

by responding to their Maker with grateful obedience

and to one another with love and helpfulness.

Jesus is Lord!

He has been Lord from the beginning.

He will be Lord at the end.

Even now he is Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Anthem

Praise We Sing to Thee

Haydn/Luvaas

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God, celebrating the beginning of the ministry of the Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight, 19th senior pastor of this 204-year-old congregation - that our people will be her people.

We also celebrate the 90th birthday of Jane Studstill on July 5th.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Bill and Pam Pope on the death of Daphne Pope on June 26, 2021. The funeral will take place on Thursday, July 15th at 11am in the Sanctuary with a reception to follow in the Session House.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Saving God, hear our prayer.

Benediction

Postlude *America (My Country, 'Tis of Thee)* Powell

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 greeters this morning:
8:30 Patti Fleming
11:00 Helen Robinson and Helen Burlazzi

Liturgist: The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Members of the Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs

Prayer of Confession – from *Call to Worship: Lectionary Aids*
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Church (U.S.A.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reception Today!

Following each service there will be a welcome reception for our new Pastor/Head of Staff, the Rev. Dr. Anna Straight. If weather allows, the reception will be on the lawn near the front of the Sanctuary. If it is stormy, the reception will be in the Session House.

Nametags

As more and more of the congregation is returning to worship in person after not seeing one another in quite a while AND to help Anna become acquainted with the congregation, 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

In a large congregation like First Presbyterian, it is hard to know everyone. When you attend worship, there are just a few moments, before the service and after the service, when you can connect or chat. It's important to greet your friends, but how about making time to reach out with *more than a nod* to someone you haven't yet met. It's good to remember how Jesus was always on the look-out for the stranger.

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 tips to strengthen the hospitality of our congregation.

Flower Calendar

Do you have a family birthday, anniversary, or memorial date coming up this fall? Currently, October 10th and November 7th and 14th are open. Other dates are available to the end of the year. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Nursery Open

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

Paid 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.

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:

- **July 4** No Class!
- **July 11** Stacey Griffith "Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels" by Ken Bailey
- **July 18** Anna Straight "Finding God in the Waves: How I Lost My Faith and Found It Again Through Science" by Mike McHargue
- **July 25** Wendy Moeller "Hope In Times of Fear: The Resurrection and the Meaning of Easter" by Timothy Keller

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.

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. 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.

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.

Notes:

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