

# 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

5 July 2020

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### Prayer of Preparation

*The sunlight of the morning shows us that darkness cannot prevail and that everything hidden is seen by the eyes of our God. Remind us this day that you see our needs and our deeds. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.*

### Welcome and Chiming of the Trinity

#### \*Call to Worship from Psalm 77

I cry aloud to God for help, that he may hear me.

**In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord;  
in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying;  
my soul refuses to be comforted.**

I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord;

I will remember your wonders of old.

**I will meditate on all your work,  
and muse on your mighty deeds.**

Your way, O God, is holy.

What god is so great as our God?

**You are the God who works wonders;  
you have displayed your might among the peoples.**

When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you,  
they were afraid; the very deep trembled.

**The clouds poured out water; the skies thundered;  
your arrows flashed on every side.**

The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind;

your lightning lit up the world; the earth trembled and shook.

**Your way was through the sea,  
your path through the mighty waters;  
yet your footprints were unseen.**

Together let us pray.

**Faithful God, through rain and thunder you are with your people. Even when we turn our backs on you, your patience and tolerance abound, and you give us a new start, time and time again. Thank you for pouring your grace over us through Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.**

Let us worship God.

1 My coun - try, 'tis of thee, sweet land of  
2 My na - tive coun - try, thee, land of the  
3 Let mu - sic swell the breeze, and ring from  
4 Our \*fa - thers' God, to thee, au - thor of

lib - er - ty, of thee I sing: land where my  
no - ble free, thy name I love; I love thy  
all the trees sweet free - dom's song. Let mor - tal  
lib - er - ty, to thee we sing. Long may our

\*fa - thers died, land of the pil - grims' pride,  
rocks and rills, thy woods and tem - pled hills;  
tongues a - wake; let all that breathe par - take;  
land be bright with free - dom's ho - ly light;

from ev - ery moun - tain - side let free - dom ring.  
my heart with rap - ture thrills like that a - bove.  
let rocks their si - lence break, the sound pro - long.  
pro - tect us by thy might, great God, our King.

## Prayer of Confession

God, our rock and refuge, there are plenty of things that we allow to erode our faith in you. When life gets stormy, we let our uncertainty cloud our trust in you. We think we know better and start relying on ourselves to be able to weather the rain. Forgive our lack of hope and the disbelief that drowns us. Allow us to hold on to you, our rock, and to build our lives on the foundation of your love.

*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 of Illumination

**Lesson** Galatians 5:1-15 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** *Freedom Talk* Rev. Bellis

**\*Affirmation of Faith** A Declaration of Faith (PCUSA 1991) Chapter 8(1)

God sends the church into the world.

**God has not taken his people out of the world, but has sent them into the world to worship him there and serve all humankind. We worship God in the world by standing before the Lord in behalf of all people. Our cries for help and our songs of praise are never for ourselves alone. Worship is no retreat from the world; it is part of our mission. We serve humankind by discerning what God is doing in the world and joining him in his work. We risk disagreement and error when we try to say what God is doing here and now. But we find guidance in God's deeds in the past and his promises for the future, as they are witnessed to in Scripture. We affirm that the Lord is at work, especially in events and movements that free people by the gospel and advance justice, compassion and peace.**

**Hymn 338 v.1**

*O Beautiful, for Spacious Skies*  
Pat K. Rowlett, soprano

Bates/Ward

**O beautiful for spacious skies,  
for amber waves of grain,  
for purple mountain majesties  
above the fruited plain!  
America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee,  
and crown thy good with brotherhood  
from sea to shining sea!**

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

Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

**Benediction**