

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

14 August 2022

The 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prayer of Preparation

Peter Traben Haas

*Christ my healer,
Remind me that, with you, all things are possible.
Help me not limit your power in my life today
with any language of despair, restriction, or defeat. Amen.*

Welcome

The Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Kendrick

Call to Worship

from Psalm 50

The mighty one, God the Lord,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.
Our God comes and does not keep silence,
He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth,
The heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge
Let us worship God!

1 Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a
 2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of
 3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest; I in my

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion,
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; an - gels de - scend - ing,
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blest, watch - ing and wait - ing,

pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
 bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

Refrain

This is my sto - ry; this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior

all the day long; this is my sto - ry; this is my

song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of the ages. God of the old, old story, we hear of our ancestors and are astounded by their faith. They trusted you, but we waver. They believed your promise, but we cling to our own ideas.

(we pause for a time of silent prayer)

Forgive us and free us from our fear, that we may follow with joy wherever you may lead; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 38:1-13

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

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight

Affirmation of Faith

from a Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks, and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus! With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Anthem

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Kendrick

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

...Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Benediction

Response

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Medema

Pianist: Cindy Sutton

Ensemble: Resurrection Singers Women's Ensemble

The prayer of preparation is from [Centering Prayers: A One-Year Daily Companion for Going Deeper into the Love of God](#) by Peter Traben Haas.

The prayer of confession is from Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching, and the Arts - Volume 55.1 Published by the Office of Theology and Worship of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

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UPCOMING EVENTS

On September 11 (the Sunday After Labor Day) we will return to two worship services – 8:30 and 11:00. Sunday School for all ages will be from 9:40 – 10:40. Stay tuned for details!

On August 28, the Session has called a meeting of the congregation to hear the report of the Nominating Committee and to elect Elders to serve in the class of 2025. A brochure introducing you to the nominees will be available the Sunday before and will be emailed to the congregation the week before.

West African Dance and Performance Workshop – Saturday, August 20, 1:00 - 2:30 in the J. Murphy Smith Center. The SUAH African Dance Theater will present a West African dance performance and workshop to learn the traditional dances. More information can be found here:

<https://www.artstoendgenocide.org/>

Presbyterian Church General Assembly Information Session

Sunday, August 21 from 8:40 – 9:40 in the Session House.

For those who are curious, those who have questions, and those who have ideas, this will be a time of unpacking the actions of our recent General Assembly. The session will be led by Steve Mabie and Anna Pinckney Straight

Divine Sleep Yoga Class - Starting August 22

Taught by Diane Elliott and offered on Mondays from, 12:00-1:00 pm in the Lighthouse (on the corner of New and Hancock streets). Class begins with 10 minutes of mindfulness, followed by 30 minutes of restorative yoga. Participants may bring a prop, such as a yoga mat and blanket for comfort. Contact Diane Elliott with questions (410 507-5508, dianeelliott0@gmail.com) The class is free, but donations are accepted.

The annual Presbyterian Women Kick-Off Luncheon will be held in the Session House on **Sunday, August 28**, following the service and Congregational Meeting. **All women of First Presbyterian Church are cordially invited.** The luncheon is free of charge and no reservations are required. If you are currently a Circle member, consider inviting a fellow church member to join you. This is an opportunity to meet the PW Officers, connect with members of our five Circles, and learn about the 2022-2023 Bible Study, *Celebrating Sabbath*. A special highlight is our traditional dessert of Dove Bars!

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY

- ❖ Children and Youth Sunday School will kick off on **September 11!**
- ❖ Nursery is available, birth to Pre-K, 8:30 am-11:15 am.
- ❖ Children's Worship and Wonder meet in the Ministry Center for rising grades K-2 after the Children's Moment.

Youth End of Summer Lock-in: Youth in rising grades 6-12, bring your PJs, sleeping bag, and pillow for a night of games, snacks, and fun! **Drop-off is at 8:00 pm on Saturday, August 20 and pick-up is after worship at 11:00 am on Sunday, August 21.** We will be packing hospitality bags for Religious Community Services (RCS). (Sign up online and you don't have to be in Youth to donate!)

Blessing of the Backpacks:

Young and not-so-young, students and teachers: You are invited to bring your backpack to worship on **August 21 at 10:00 am for a special time of blessing your next season of learning.** All ages can participate!

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION

Sunday Mornings, 8:40 am-9:40 am

The Present Word/George Evans – Session House Parlor

The class is studying “Partners in a New Creation” for the summer. Contact George Evans (gkevans4@gmail.com) with questions.

Midweek Opportunities

Rebuilding – Divorce Recovery Group

This new group hopes to be just the right balance of a shoulder-to-cry-on and a kick-in-the-pants to support your getting through this confusing and often painful process and putting your life back together. Our next meeting is Monday, **August 15**.

Monday Evening Women’s Bible Study

We will meet Monday evenings 7:00-8:30 via Zoom starting **September 12** and will be reading the book *Neglected Voices: Biblical Spirituality in the Margins*, by John Indermark. The book is available from Amazon, new or used. For more information, contact Wendy Moeller at 252-876-7259 or Marice Debruhl at 252-617-8557. To be placed on the Zoom list, contact Cathy Wingfield at 828-767-0975.

Tuesday Afternoon Grief Support

The group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month (the next meeting is on **September 13**) from 12:00 to 1:00 pm in the Chapel. This ongoing group provides its members with understanding and support after someone they love dies. Come and bring a friend.

SERVICE AND GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

RCS Donations Needed

RCS is looking for clothing for men, women, and children, new socks and underwear for men & women, raincoats and jackets, sheets, blankets, bedspreads, and towels. They also need hygiene items (women’s deodorant, shampoo), and non-perishable food (pasta & sauce, canned beans, dry beans, mac & cheese, soup, peanut butter & jelly, ramen noodles, canned fruit, rice, canned meat, Spaghetti-os). You can take donations to RCS or bring them to First Pres!

Vases

Do you have some extra small or medium size vases? We can use them at the church as we arrange and give away flowers during the week. If you have some to donate, please drop them off in the church office copy room. Thank you!
