

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

**21 August 2022**

**The 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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## Prayer of Preparation

Gerard Manly Hopkins

*Glory be to God for dappled things –  
For skies of couple-colour as a brinded cow,  
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim,  
Fresh-firecoal chestnut falls, finches' wings,  
Landscape plotted and pieced – fold, fallow, and plough,  
And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim  
All things counter, original, spare, strange,  
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)  
With swift, slow, sweet, sour, adazzle, dim  
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:  
Praise him.*

## Welcome

## The Chiming of the Trinity

## Introit

*The Lord is God*

Gambrell/Gläser

## Call to Worship

from Psalm 8

O Lord, our God,  
**how majestic is your name in all the earth.**

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

**what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?**

Yet you have made them a little lower than God,  
**and crowned them with glory and honor.**

O Lord, our God,  
**how majestic is your name in all the earth.**

Hymn 327

From All That Dwells Below the Skies

Watts/1623

*unison*

1 From all that dwell be-low the skies let the Cre - a - tor's praise a -  
 2 In ev - ery land be - gin the song; to ev - ery land the strains be -  
 3 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord; e - ter - nal truth at - tends thy

*Harmony* *Unison*

rise: Let the Re - deem - er's  
 long: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! In cheer - ful sound all  
 word: Thy praise shall sound from

name be sung through ev - ery land, in ev - ery tongue.  
 voic - es raise and fill the world with joy - ful praise.  
 shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.

*Harmony*

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

God of all creation,

God of what we see and what is beyond our vision.

We confess that we are quick to claim what is not ours

and slow to care for that which is within reach,

placing ourselves at the center, with everything and everyone else in an outer orbit.

*(we pause for a time of silent confession)*

Restore us, we pray, to the places where you have called us,

to right relationship with creation and all humanity. By your grace,

may we know and share your expanding love. 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

Job 38:31-33

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

#### Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight

#### Affirmation of Faith

from the Belonging to God Catechism

What did God create?

God created all that is, seen and unseen.

"In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good." (Genesis 1:1, 31)

"When they heard it, they raised their voices together to God and said, 'Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and everything in them.'" (Acts 4:24)

"When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?" (Psalm 8:3-4)

"The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork." (Psalm 19:1)

**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**

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Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Members of the Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs

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The prayer of preparation is a sonnet written by Gerard Manly Hopkins in 1877 entitled "Pied Beauty."

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**UPCOMING EVENTS****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). 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.

**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.

**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!

**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!

#### **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.

#### **Blessing of the Backpacks:**

Young and not-so-young, students and teachers: You are invited to bring your backpack to worship **TODAY, 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. **There will be no class this Sunday, September 21.** Contact George Evans (gkevans4@gmail.com) with questions.

#### *Midweek Opportunities*

#### **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.

### **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, **September 19**.

### **Tuesday Afternoon Grief Support**

The group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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!

### **Looking for Reception Volunteers**

If you enjoy working with friendly people in a terrific environment and can volunteer your time on weekdays from either 9 am to 1 pm or 1-5 pm, please contact the church office (252-637-3270). We are looking for a few more smiling faces to join our awesome group of volunteers.