Quartet

Guide My Feet African American spiritual harmonized by Wendell P. Whalum

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Save us, O Lord, we come to you.

Benediction

Postlude Appalachian Allegretto Powell

You are invited to remain seated for the postlude or you may exit the pew when directed by the ushers.

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!

Musicians: Vance Harper Jones, organist

Quartet: Betsy Conzelman, Sue Jones, Stephen Mabie, Susan

Mabie



"Peter Tries to Walk on Water," François Boucher, ca. 1766, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

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

9 August 2020

Prayer of Preparation

O God, as you helped Peter to walk on water, give us the faith to go where you would send us. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Welcome and Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Held

*Call to Worship

O praise the Lord! It is good to give thanks to the Lord; for God's love endures forever.

For the days are long and at times our faith seems so weak. Let our hearts focus on Christ and let us be bold where we walk. For in Christ all things are possible for those who have faith. Together let us pray:

O God, we gather to hear of the mighty acts you perform, of how you deal justly with your people. You led them from peril and delivered them from persecution. By the hands of Christ, you lift us up to safe places, and give us a vision of how we may dwell secure in your love. Hear us now as we give praise and thanks for your providence and mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ, let us worship God.

Quartet

I Love to Tell the Story

Hankey/Fischer

Prayer of Confession

O God, called to be courageous, we find our faith lacking. When asked to take risks, we confess our complacency. By ignoring injustice, we hope that it will subside. You show us how you are a God to be trusted. Leading your people, you have stayed by their side. Even Christ overcame his enemies as he hung on the cross. Forgive our reluctance to believe in your guidance. Amen.

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 Matthew 14:22-33

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon Determined Discipleship Rev. Bellis

*Affirmation of Faith

Excepted from Confession of '67 (PCUSA) 9.31-9.33

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to his call.

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church 's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong.

The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.