

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 19, 2020

1st Presbyterian of Rockaway

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86448723035?pwd=OHREVGlvEjkrLzJjcHk5ZDgxOG9iUT09>

Meeting ID: 864 4872 3035

Password: 466264

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,86448723035#,,,,0#,,466264# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,86448723035#, 0#,,466264# US (New York)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE “Open the Eyes of My Heart” Words & Music by Paul Baloche
arrg: by Phillip Keveren**

CALL TO WORSHIP

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to God, sing praises to God, tell about the wonderful works.

Glory in God’s holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Seek the Lord and the strength of the Lord; seek the presence of God continually.

Remember the wonderful works God has done, the miracles and the judgments.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, author of our life and end of our pilgrimage: Guide us by your Word and Spirit amid all perils and temptations, that we may no wander from your way, nor stumble in the darkness; but may finish our course in safety, and come to our eternal rest in you. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

HYMN 403

OPEN NOW THY GATES OF BEAUTY

**Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there;
Where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer;
O how blessed is this place, filled with solace , light, and grace.**

**Gracious God, I come before thee; come thou also unto me;
Where we find thee and adore thee, there a heaven on earth must be;
To my heart O enter thou; let it be thy temple now.**

**Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be done indeed;
May I undisturbed draw near thee, while thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows; here is balm for all our woes.**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Sisters and brothers, God never forgets God's promises' God's covenant endures in each new generation. We are free to speak the truth about our lives because God's faithfulness embraces us as we examine our hearts.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mystery, God of life, we imagine that we are capable judges of power and wisdom and goodness. We trust our own standards; we separate and categorize; we mark the performance of others. We fail to trust your power, hidden in all things. We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes. Gracious God, hidden and manifest, transform our withered imaginations until we yield the judgments we trust to a love we cannot control. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? Sisters and brothers, nothing we have done, nothing we will ever do, is enough to separate us from the love of God made known in Jesus Christ. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

PSALM 139:1-18. 23-24

¹O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

²**You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.**

³You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴**Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.**

⁵You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

⁷Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸**If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**

⁹If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

¹⁰**even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"

¹²**even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.**

¹³For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴**I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.**

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

16Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

17How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

18I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you..

23Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.

24See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

GENESIS 27:42-42, GENESIS 28:1-22

42But the words of her elder son Esau were told to Rebekah; so she sent and called her younger son Jacob and said to him, “Your brother Esau is consoling himself by planning to kill you. **43**Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; flee at once to my brother Laban in Haran, **44**and stay with him a while, until your brother’s fury turns away— **45**until your brother’s anger against you turns away, and he forgets what you have done to him; then I will send, and bring you back from there. Why should I lose both of you in one day?” **46**Then Rebekah said to Isaac, “I am weary of my life because of the Hittite women. If Jacob marries one of the Hittite women such as these, one of the women of the land, what good will my life be to me?”

Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, “You shall not marry one of the Canaanite women. **2**Go at once to Paddan-aram to the house of Bethuel, your mother’s father; and take as wife from there one of the daughters of Laban, your mother’s brother. **3**May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and numerous, that you may become a company of peoples. **4**May he give to you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your offspring with you, so that you may take possession of the land where you now live as an alien—land that God gave to Abraham.” **5**Thus Isaac sent Jacob away; and he went to Paddan-aram, to Laban son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob’s and Esau’s mother.

6Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram to take a wife from there, and that as Isaac blessed him he charged him, “You shall not marry one of the Canaanite women,” **7**and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and gone to Paddan-aram. **8**So when Esau saw that the Canaanite women did not please his father Isaac, **9**Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath daughter of Abraham’s son Ishmael, and sister of Nebaioth, to be his wife in addition to the wives he had.

10Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. **11**He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. **12**And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. **13**And the LORD stood beside him and said, “I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; **14**and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to

the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

¹⁶Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!” ¹⁷And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” ¹⁸So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

²⁰Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, ²¹so that I come again to my father’s house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, ²²and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God’s house; and of all that you give me I will surely give one tenth to you.”

SERMON

DREAMING OF GOD

HYMN 817

WE WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT

We walk by faith and not by sight; with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e’er spoke: “My peace be with you here.”

We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod;
But in your promise we rejoice and cry, “My Lord and God!”

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound
To call on you when you are near and seek where you are found.

And when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light
May we behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We belong to God, eternal and infinite,
Creator of all things and all that is to come.

We follow Christ, who comes to us from God, and reveals God to us.
He heals people and transforms lives, and calls us to join in his ministry.
He was crucified, died, and was raised again by God,

And reigns over all Creation;

And he bids us to die and rise with him in the service of the healing of the world.

We are moved by the Holy Spirit, together with the communion of saints.

As members of the Body of Christ, God’s holy universal church.

We are confident in the forgiveness of sin,

The power of resurrection and the reality of eternal life.

In all things it is our desire to follow Christ,

by the grace of the Holy Spirit, for the glory of God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE 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.

HYMN 694

GREAT GOD OF EVERY BLESSING

**Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
You are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
Sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.**

**Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace,
In death and life extending your covenant embrace.
In Christ we are one body; each member has a part:
Sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.**

**Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search,
Transforming broken people into the holy church.
For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart:
Sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE "How Great Thou Art" Melody by Carl G. Boberg
arrg. By David Nevue**

ZOOM LINK FOR SUNDAY MORNING ADULT STUDY

Time: Jul 5, 2020 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88998639321?pwd=T0xLc1R0d3lLN25Nc2J3MFlixWUpiUT09>

ZOOM LINK FOR TUESDAY MORNING ADULT STUDY

Time: Jul 7, 2020 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83326527747?pwd=SDFTeGRmbmNYMSsrL1RMWnhXWnphdz09>