

20st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 16, 2020

1st Presbyterian of Rockaway

Join Zoom Meeting

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come and worship God in joy!

The house of the Lord will be a house of prayer for all peoples.

How good it is to live in unity.

This is the blessing of the Lord: life forevermore.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whose compassion embraces everyone, gather the outcast and the lost, heal the wounds of fear and distrust, and make us a community of reconciliation that we may embody your merciful love and rejoice in your astounding grace in Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN 413

COME INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Come into God's presence singing "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia."

Come into God's presence singing "Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord."

Praise the Lord together singing "Worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb."

Praise the Lord together singing "Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God."

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

God calls us into community, to live in harmony and dignity; but too often we follow our own desires and our own paths. Let us confess our sins and commit ourselves to following the path God has chosen for us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord our God, we confess that we do not reflect your glory. You invite us to live together in unity; we allow family drama to drive us apart. You welcome all to the table of grace; we turn away strangers asking for crumbs. Forgive us; restore and reorder our lives by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may be one as you are one, sharing the blessing of life forevermore, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The same God who chose a people and who calls us to be people of God is the God who delivers us from our sin.

God sends the Spirit to lead and to guide us and to give us hope. Our sins are forgiven in the amazing mercy and grace of God!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find wisdom, and in your will discover your peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

ISAIAH 56:1, 6-8

Thus says the LORD:

**Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.**

**⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—**

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

PSALM 133

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!

² It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.

³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.

MATTHEW 15:10-28

¹⁰ Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³ He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind.^[a] And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶ Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs

that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

SERMON "A PLACE AT THE TABLE" Elder Joe Martinoni

HYMN 301 LET US BUILD A HOUSE

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat;
A banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Prayerful Preparation: Living God, Renew Us*. Nolan Palsma, Published by the World Communion of Reformed Churches,

**We share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind;
have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit,
are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup,
confess one Name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause,
and share one hope.**

**Together we come to know
the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ;**

are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity;
know and bear one another's burdens,
thereby fulfilling the law of Christ
that we need one another and up build one another,
admonishing and comforting one another;
that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness.
Together we pray; together we serve God in this world.

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 318 IN CHRIST THERE IS NO EAST OR WEST

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
But one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet south and north.
All Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

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