

**Ordinary 4 B**  
**January 31, 2021**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian of Rockaway**  
**Join Zoom Worship (login beginning at 12 Noon EDT)**

<https://zoom.us/join>

**Phone in: (mobile or home phone) +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)**  
**Meeting ID: 742 347 8806 Passcode: 6562894**  
**+19292056099,7423478806#, 0#,6562894# US (New York)**

**PRELUDE**

**“Why Do I Sing About Jesus?”**

by Albert A. Ketchum  
Arranged by Don Wyrzten

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

As people, as a group, as a community of faith –  
**we gather together.**

To listen.

**To speak.**

To worship.

**To pray.**

To be with God. Because we know –

**it is out of God’s authority, it is out of God’s love, that we live.**

**Alleluia!**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God of all glory, on this first day you began creation, bringing light out of darkness. On this first day you began your new creation, raising Jesus Christ out of the darkness of death.

On this Lord’s Day grant that we, the people you create by water and the Spirit, may be joined with all your works in praising you for your great glory. Through Jesus Christ, in union with the Holy Spirit, we praise you now and forever. Amen.

**HYMN 691            LORD, WHEN I CAME INTO THIS LIFE**

Lord when I came into this life you called me by my name;

Today I come, commit myself, responding to your claim.

Within the circle of the faith, as member of your cast,  
I take my place with all the saints of future, present, past.

In all the tensions of my life, between my faith and doubt,  
Let your great Spirit give me hope, sustain me, lead me out.

So help me in my unbelief and let my life be true:  
Feet firmly planted on the earth, my sights set high on you.

## **INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Mighty and merciful God, you have called us to be your people and claimed us for the service of Jesus Christ. We confess that we have not lived up to our calling. We have been timid and frightened disciples, forgetful of your powerful presence and the strength of your Spirit among us.**

**O God, forgive our foolish and sinful ways. As you have chosen us, and claimed us in our baptisms, strengthen us anew to choose Christ's way in this world. Give us your Holy Spirit that each one in ministry may be provided with all the gifts of grace needed to fulfill our common calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives us all your sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**As we are gathered here today, we ask you, our living God, to shower onto us your wisdom and knowledge. We pray that as we listen to your word, we may have the ability to clearly see what God has called us to do. We seek to live to fulfill your purpose so that we can see your kingdom. Illuminate our eyes and reveal to us your glory. Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20**

<sup>15</sup> The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet<sup>[a]</sup> like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>16</sup> This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." <sup>17</sup> Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup> I will raise up for them a prophet<sup>[c]</sup> like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet,<sup>[d]</sup> who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup> Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet<sup>[e]</sup> shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup> But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

## **PSALM 111**

### **<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD**

! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**<sup>2</sup>Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.**

<sup>3</sup>Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

**<sup>4</sup>He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

<sup>5</sup>He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

**<sup>6</sup>He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.**

<sup>7</sup>The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

**<sup>8</sup>They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

<sup>9</sup>He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.

**<sup>10</sup>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever**

## **MARK 1:21-28**

<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup> They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup> Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup> and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." <sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" <sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup> They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He <sup>a</sup> commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." <sup>28</sup> At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

## **SERMON**

## **AUTHORITY**

### **HYMN 767**

### **TOGETHER WE SERVE**

**Together we serve, united by love,  
Inviting God's world to the glorious feast;  
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy,  
Extending God's love to the last and the least.**

**We seek to become a beacon of hope,  
A lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.  
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through  
Until we see Christ in each person we meet.**

**We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor,  
The busy, the lonely, and all who need care.  
We offer a home to those who will come,  
Our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.**

**Together, by grace, we witness and work,  
Remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.  
Together we serve in Spirit and truth,  
Remembering love is the strength of our song.**

#### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**You call us to service; to be your eyes and ears, hands and voice in this, your world.**

**To open our eyes not only to the beauty and love which you create,  
but the injustice, hate and suffering that humankind generates.**

**To open our ears not only to the chattering of this coming week, but the  
searching, fears and questioning of all whom we shall meet.**

**To open our hands not only to those we choose to share our lives, but in  
welcome, love and fellowship to all who you draw near.**

**To open our mouths not only to speak platitudes and simple words, but the truths  
you lay upon our hearts; your Word for this, your world.**

**You call us to service, to be your eyes and ears, hands and voice in this, your world.**

#### **SERVICE OF INSTALLATION**

##### **SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE**

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.**

God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

**To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.**

Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

##### **STATEMENT ON ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION**

We are all called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism, and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit. This is our common calling, to be disciples and servants of our servant Lord. Within the community of the church, some are called to particular service as deacons, as ruling elders, and as teaching elders. Ordination is Christ's gift to the church, assuring that his ministry continues among us, providing for ministries of caring and compassion in the world, ordering the governance of the church, and preaching the Word and administering the sacraments.

*Clerk of session:*

Representing the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church, the session of 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church now installs to the office of deacon Lisa DiBonaventura, Debbie Garris, Nancy Kolhbush, Alison Molinaro, Vicki Philhower, Kathy Shuey, Linda Sunderman, Barbara Weinberg and Linda Urwin to active service.

The session also installs to active service those who have been previously ordained: ruling elder Rich Basile, Lillian Blair, Carol Lutcza and Donna VanDuyne.

## **RENUNCIATIONS**

*Minister of Word and Sacrament:*

Ordination calls the whole church to renewed commitment, and reminds us all to bear gladly the yoke of Christ given in the covenant of baptism. Let us, therefore, renounce all that opposes God and god's rule and affirm the faith of the holy catholic church.

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

**I do.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

**I do.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

**I will, with God's help.**

Remember your baptism and be thankful. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS**

God has called you by the voice of the church to serve Jesus Christ in a special way. You know who we are and what we believe, and you understand the work for which you have been chosen. Please give your answers to these questions:

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

**I do.**

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the church universal, and God's Word to you?

**I do.**

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

**I do and I will.**

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

**I will.**

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

**I will.**

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

**I will.**

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

**I do.**

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

**I will.**

*To deacons:*

Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need? In your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

**I will.**

*To ruling elders:*

Will you be faithful ruling elders, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

**I will.**

*Stated clerk to the congregation:*

Do we the members of the church, accept Lisa DiBonaventura, Debbie Garris, Nancy Kolhbush, Alison Molinaro, Vicki Philhower, Kathy Shuey, Linda Sunderman, Barbara Weinberg and Linda Urwin as deacons, and Rich Basile, Lillian Blair, Carol Lutcza and Donna VanDuyne as ruling elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

**We do.**

Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is head of the Church?

**We do.**

## **PRAYER OF INSTALLATION**

**Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your servants whom you called through baptism as your own and marked as your own. Grant them the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. Give them a spirit of truthfulness that they may show the compassion of Christ in the actions of daily living and rightly govern your people.**

**Give them the gifts of your Holy Spirit to build up the church, to strengthen the common life of your people, and to lead with compassion and vision. In the walk of faith, and for the work of ministry, give to your servants gladness and strength, discipline and hope, humility, humor, and courage, and an abiding sense of your presence.**

**Show us the transforming power of your grace in our life together, that we may be servants of the gospel, offering a compelling witness in the world to the good news of Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **DECLARATION OF INSTALLATION**

You are now installed deacons and elders in the church of Jesus Christ and for this congregation. Be faithful and true in your ministry so that your whole life will bear witness to the crucified and risen Christ.

## **CHARGE** *(from Hebrews 12)*

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

## **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 761                    CALLED AS PARTNERS IN CHRIST'S SERVICE**  
Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,  
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,  
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.  
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,  
Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God untold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,  
Help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.  
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge said with care,  
Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fait.  
So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life  
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,  
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

**THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**THE POSTLUDE                    "Jesus Loves Me"                    by William G. Bradbury**  
Arranged by Frank Milholland

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**GIVING TO 1<sup>ST</sup> PRESBYTERIAN OF ROCKAWAY**

- Go to our web page (fpcrockaway.org), scroll down to "donate" and give electronically
- Mail your donation to:  
1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian of Rockaway  
35 Church St.  
Rockaway, NJ 07886

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**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**

Come join us!

Nancy Young is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Time: Jan 3, 2021 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86468468691?pwd=Z3ZNNzJabHdKaFN0TjhrOEVBYXlqdz09>

Meeting ID: 864 6846 8691

Passcode: 317165

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: PSALMS**  
**WILL BEGIN FEBRUARY 7, 2021**