

**18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**August 1, 2021**

**1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian of Rockaway**

**Join Zoom Worship (login beginning at 9:30 AM EDT)**

**<https://zoom.us/join>**

**Phone in: (mobile or home phone) +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)**

**<https://zoom.us/j/4683220487?pwd=OHBUb2V4RmJVMGF2U3VEVEFLMWNjUT09>**

**Meeting ID: 468 322 0487**

**Passcode: FPCR2021**

**One tap mobile)**

**+16465588656,,4683220487#,,,,\*67022253# US (New York)**

*\*Please stand in body or in spirit.*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

*Please use this time to silently prepare your hearts and minds for worship.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We've come to worship God,  
who loved us before we were yet born,  
**who knows us even better than we know ourselves,**  
**whose presence never leaves us,**  
and whose love for us never ceases.  
**This is our God. Let us worship together!**

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**God of mystery and of power, nothing is hid from you, to you all things are plain.  
Give us grace, O Lord, to hear your word and see your hand. Your might and your  
strength are beyond all comparison. Your love is greater than words can say.  
Give us grace, O Lord, to hear your word and see your hand. You call us Lord to a  
closer walk with you. You guide us into the paths that you have chosen in your  
wisdom.**

**Give us grace, O Lord, to hear your word and see your hand. Keep us from fleeing  
your presence. Make us responsive to your loving call. Gracious Creator, hear  
our prayer and make us new. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and  
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. Amen.**

**\*HYMN 395**

**BLESSED JESUS, AT YOUR WORD**

**Blessed Jesus, at your word we have come again to hear you;  
Let our thoughts and hearts be stirred and in glowing faith be hear you.  
By your gospel true and holy, teach us, Lord, to love you solely.**

**All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded,  
Till your Spirit breaks our night, filling us with light unclouded.  
All good thoughts and all good living come by buy your gracious giving.**

**Glorious Lord, yourself impart, Light of light, from God proceeding.  
Touch our lips and ears and heart; help us by your Spirit's pleading.  
Hear the cry your church now raises; hear, and bless our prayers and praises.**

### **INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

When we don't know how or what to pray, the Spirit knows.  
When all we can muster are sighs and groans, the Spirit knows those also.  
When we feel that we aren't even worthy to approach God, the Spirit goes before us  
and with us and God welcomes us with arms open.  
So with hope, let us confess our sins together

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God,  
we confess that we do not always love our neighbor.  
We confess that we have despised others, even to the point of hatred.  
We confess that we have been hurt by others.  
We confess that forgiveness and reconciliation at times  
are just impossible for us.  
We know that nothing is impossible in You.  
We come to You, seeking healing and wholeness for us.  
Help us, whenever possible, to live in peace with others,  
to seek reconciliation and healing and forgiveness.  
For Your Son came and lived among us, was betrayed and denied,  
abused and put to death.  
He rose again, and came with the message of peace to those  
who had denied him and abandoned him.  
May we walk in his ways. Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

For nothing is impossible with God.  
There is no place we can go, no end of the earth we can run,  
where God cannot find us.  
There is nothing on earth or beyond death that can separate us  
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
We are forgiven. We are loved.  
We are reconciled to God. Go and live with the love of God. Amen.

### **\*GLORIA PATRI (581)**

**Glory be to the Father; and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen, Amen.**

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Open our ears, O God, that we might hear your Word speaking to us in this moment. Open our ears, O God, that we might listen for your voice calling to us through scripture. Open our ears, O God, that we might understand your promises to followers both old and young, ancient and modern. Open our hearts, O God, that we might enter into the love you offer us. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### 1 SAMUEL 3:1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

<sup>2</sup> At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup> the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup> and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup> The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." <sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup> The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup> Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup> Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

### PSALM 139:1-18, 23-24

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup> You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

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

<sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

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

<sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

<sup>10</sup> **even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

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

<sup>12</sup> **even the darkness is not dark to you;**

**the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.**

<sup>13</sup> For 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.**

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

**16 Your 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.**

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

**18 I try to count them—they are more than the sand;**

**I come to the end—I am still with you.**

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

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

### **ROMANS 8:28-39**

**28** We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. **29** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. **30** And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

**31** What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? **32** He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? **33** Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. **34** Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. **35** Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **36** As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;

we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

**37** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **SERMON**

### **THE INESCAPABLE GOD**

**Rev. Dr. Nancy Young**

### **\*HYMN 69**

### **HERE I AM, LORD**

**I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.**

**All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.**

**I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.**

**Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?**

*Refrain*

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.**

**I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.**

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give the hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

*Refrain*

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.

*Refrain*

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

#### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Nicene Creed*)

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the  
Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.**

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

## **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 500**

## **BE KNOWN TO US IN BREAKING BREAD**

**Be known to us in breaking bread, but do not then depart;  
Savior, abide with us, and spread your table in our heart.**

**Here share with us, on love divine, your body and your blood,  
That living bread, that heavenly wine be our immortal blood.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

When we join in the sacrament of Holy Communion,

Let us remember that it is not of the Church, but of the Lord.

We prepare ourselves, those who love him and who want to love him more

So, join with me, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who often join us, and you who have not joined us for a while; you who have tried to follow our Lord and you who have failed. Join in the sacrament, not because it is I who invite you; it is our Lord who calls us to the table.

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is with thanks and praise that we follow Jesus' example and command. We take this bread and this cup, the ordinary things of the world which Christ will make special. And as he said a prayer before sharing, let us do so too.

Christ our friend and our savior, for us you were born, for us you healed, preached, taught and showed the way to heaven; for us you were crucified, and for us, after death, you rose again. Lord Jesus Christ, present with us now, for all that you have done and for all that you have promised, what have we to offer? Our hands are empty, our hearts are sometimes full of wrong things. We are not fit to gather up the crumbs from under your table.

But with you there is mercy and the power to change us. So as we do in this place what you did in an upstairs room, send down your Holy Spirit upon us and on these gifts of bread and cup that they might become for us your body, healing, forgiving and making us whole; and that we might become, for you, your body, loving and caring in the world until your kingdom comes. Amen

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

**COMMUNION PRAYER**

**\*HYMN 722        LORD, SPEAK TO ME THAT I MAY SPEAK**  
Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of your tone.  
As you have sought, so let me seek your erring children, lost and lone.

O fill me with your fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'erflow  
In kindling thought and glowing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

O use me Lord, use even me, just as you will, and when and where  
Until your blessed face I see, your rest, your joy, your glory share.

**CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Please remain seated and give thanks to God.*

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**Offering plates are available in the narthex and at the exit door.**  
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**GIVING TO 1<sup>ST</sup> PRESBYTERIAN OF ROCKAWAY**

- Go to our web page ([fpcrockaway.org](http://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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***LEMONADE ON THE LAWN***

We will have a time of fellowship on the front lawn after worship – with lemonade, etc. Please consider signing up to host! Linda Urwin can give you all the details.

**THANK YOU!** To the congregational care committee for providing refreshments for our fellowship time outdoors today!

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SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY  
WOMEN OF THE BIBLE AND OF THE CHURCH

July 11 – August 15, 2021

Following Worship – 10:45 am in the sanctuary

You are invited to participate in a summer Bible study. We will look at the roles of women in familiar Bible passages and then how the roles of women in the church have developed and changed.

This is not a “women’s” study. Most of our studies of scripture focus on men – this one will focus on women and their roles in the Bible and in the church. We will meet in the sanctuary following Sunday morning worship. Bring your Bible, your questions, and your curiosity.

Get your lemonade on the lawn and come back to the sanctuary!

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**SERMON SERIES ON OUR FAVORITE HYMNS**

*“<sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.” Colossians 3:16*

Here is the schedule of favorite hymns:

July 11 – *Amazing Grace*

July 18 – *Be thou My Vision*

July 25 – *The Church’s One Foundation*

August 1- *Here I Am, Lord*

August 8 – *Gather Us In (Here in This Place)*

August 15 – *Will You Come and Follow Me*