

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of compassion, in Jesus Christ you reveal the light of your glory, but we turn away, distracted by our own plans. We confess that we speak when we should listen, and act when we should wait. Forgive our aimless enthusiasms. Grant us wisdom to live in your light and to follow in the way of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The God of Elijah, the God of Moses and the God of Jesus desires mercy more than sacrifice and a contrite heart rather than burnt offerings. God's grace is abundant and comes to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Lord our God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, that we may be obedient to your will and live always for your glory; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 KINGS 2:1-12

2 Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. **2** Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. **3** The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

4 Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. **5** The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

6 Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. **7** Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. **8** Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." **10** He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." **11** As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. **12** Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

PSALM 50:1-6

The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²**Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.**

³Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him.

⁴**He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:**

⁵“Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”

⁶**The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge.**

MARK 9:2-13

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. ¹⁰So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean. ¹¹Then they asked him, “Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?” ¹²He said to them, “Elijah is indeed coming first to restore all things. How then is it written about the Son of Man, that he is to go through many sufferings and be treated with contempt? ¹³But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written about him.”

SERMON**KEEP SILENCE****HYMN 192****SHINE, JESUS, SHINE**

**Lord, the light of your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us;
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me; shine on me.**

REFRAIN

**Shine, Jesus shine; fill this land with the Father’s glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy,
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.**

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
 from the shadows into your radiance;
 by the blood I may enter your brightness.
 Search me; try me; consume all my darkness.
 Shine on me; shine on me.

REFRAIN

As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
 So our faces display your likeness;
 Every changing from glory to glory,
 Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
 Shine on me; shine on me.

REFRAIN

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Philippians 2:2-11)

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord!

OUR OFFERING: A MINUTE FOR MISSION

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 749

COME! LIVE IN THE LIGHT!

Come! Live in the light!
 Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
 We are called to be light for the kingdom,
 to live in the freedom of the city of God.

REFRAIN

We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
 We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Join us for Ash Wednesday Service at 7pm on February 17, 2021

**1st Presbyterian of Rockaway
Join Zoom Ash Wednesday Worship 7pm**

<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)