

Ordinary 3 B
January 24, 2021
1st 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)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE “I’d Rather Have Jesus” by Rhea F. Miller & George Beverly Shea
arranged by Dino Kartsonakis

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Word of the Lord came,
hope for all people cradled in his arms.
the Word of the Lord comes,
calling us out of our comfort zones,
to go where grace is needed most.

The Word of the Lord will come,
gathering all the outsiders and insiders
into one community of the kingdom.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful God, we thank you for sending your Son to announce the coming of your kingdom. Make us ready to hear his call, to turn away from our sins, and to believe his good news. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN 667 WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES

**When morning gilds the skies, my heart awakening cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair; may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this: may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Let earth’s wide circle round in joyful notes resound:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air and sea and sky from depth to height reply: may Jesus Christ be praised!**

Be this, whole life is mine, my canticle divine:

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this the-eternal song through all the ages long: may Jesus Christ be praised!

INVITATION TO CONFESSION Based on Rom. 5:5, 8; Heb. 4:16

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God in confidence.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, our Maker and our Judge,

We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Gracious God, forgive us, and strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Hear then Christ's word of grace to us: Our sins are forgiven.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Based on Eph. 1:17-19

Holy and gracious God, may your Holy Spirit give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that, with the eyes of our hearts enlightened we may know the hope to which Christ has called us, the riches of his glorious inheritance among us, and the greatness of his power for those who believe. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

JONAH 3:1-4:11

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

⁶When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. ⁸Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. ⁹Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish.”

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

⁴ But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush,^[a] and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

PS. 62:5-12

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.

⁶ **He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.**

⁷ On God rests my deliverance and my honor;
my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

⁸ **Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.**

⁹ Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion;
in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

¹⁰ **Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.**

¹¹ Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God,

¹² **and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.
For you repay to all according to their work.**

MARK 1:14-20

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

¹⁶ As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and

followed him. ¹⁹ As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

SERMON

A WALK IN THE CITY

HYMN 435

THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY

**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness to God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.**

**For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal is more wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,
And our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.**

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. 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 and 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 God's glory.

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 463

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

**How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**“Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed.
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**“When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**

**When through fiery trials thy pathway shall be,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.**

**The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no, never forsake.”**

THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE “Wonderful Grace of Jesus” arranged by Don Wyrzten

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- **Go to our web page (fpcrockaway.org), scroll down to “donate” and give electronically**
- **Mail your donation to:
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35 Church St.
Rockaway, NJ 07886**

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**

**Annual Congregation and Corporation Meeting
January 31, 2021**

Immediately Following Worship via Zoom

The Annual Congregation and Corporation Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2021 immediately following worship via Zoom.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive and review written reports of the organizations, committees and programs of the church.

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