

**16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**July 18, 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)**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

**“Here I am to Worship”**

by Tim Hughes

Arranged by Mark Hayes

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather today to worship the One who created us,

**The One who calls us,**

The One who equips us,

**The One who loves us without end.**

With joyful hearts, let us worship God.

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**O God, our Creator, give us a vision of our world as Your love would make it: a world where the weak are protected and none go hungry or poor; a world where the benefits of civilized life are shared, and everyone can enjoy them; a world where different races, nations and cultures live in tolerance and mutual respect, a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love; and give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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**

Let us willingly embrace that which we believe is true - we can come to the seat of grace, bringing our prayers of confession to the One who is filled to overflowing with mercy and hope. Join me as we pray together.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**For ignoring the vision breathed by the living Spirit churning deep within our souls; Lord have mercy upon us.**

**For refusing to look at the vision alive within those who look or act or sound different from us; Christ have mercy upon us.**

**For choosing familiarity, ease, and comfort rather than risking the opportunities afforded in the vision Lord have mercy upon us.**

**Open our eyes, let us see our limitations and let us see your vision for us. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news! Because God loves us, we lack for nothing; because God forgives us, we have everything we need; because God surrounds us with sisters and brothers, we do not journey alone. God opens our eyes so we can see and give thanks.

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**O God, you alone are our vision. Send your Spirit of truth to open our minds and our hearts, challenge our passiveness to action inspired by your word to us so that we may surrender to your mercy and follow your will through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **JOEL 2:25-19**

<sup>25</sup> I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. <sup>26</sup> You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

<sup>27</sup> You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

<sup>28</sup> Then afterward

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions.

<sup>29</sup> Even on the male and female slaves,  
in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

### **PSALM 90:12-17**

<sup>12</sup> So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

<sup>13</sup> **Turn, O LORD! How long? Have compassion on your servants!**

- <sup>14</sup> Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
- <sup>15</sup> **Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,  
and as many years as we have seen evil.**
- <sup>16</sup> Let your work be manifest to your servants,  
and your glorious power to their children.
- <sup>17</sup> **Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and prosper for us the work of our hands—  
O prosper the work of our hands!**

### **MARK 8:22-26**

<sup>22</sup> They came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch him. <sup>23</sup> He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Can you see anything?" <sup>24</sup> And the man looked up and said, "I can see people, but they look like trees, walking." <sup>25</sup> Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. <sup>26</sup> Then he sent him away to his home, saying, "Do not even go into the village."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

**WHAT DO YOU SEE?**

**Rev. Dr. Nancy Young**

**HYMN 450**

**BE THOU MY VISION**

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;  
Raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968)  
**We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

## **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 744                      ARISE, YOUR LIGHT IS COME!**

**Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;  
 Show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;  
 Proclaim the captives liberty, good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,  
 Bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!  
 Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.**

## **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE                      "Toccata in F"                      by Johann Pachelbel**

*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 07866**

### *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 – *Gather Us In (Here in This Place)*

August 1- *Here I Am, Lord*

August 8 – *The Church’s One Foundation*

August 15 – *Will You Come and Follow Me*

### BACKPACKS FOR CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY

Backpacks will be distributed to children who qualify for free (or reduced) lunch in the schools of Rockaway Boro and Township at the Methodist Church on Aug 26. Because of the lingering effects of the Corona Virus we have modified our plans for the distribution of this year’s backpacks. Our church is asking for money donations only for this year. You can send your check made out to U M C of the Rockaways and mail it to United Methodist Church, 1 Hoagland Ave. Rockaway, NJ 07866 with Backpacks written in the memo line, preferably by Aug 10. If you prefer to buy supplies and donate them, you can look for one of the donations boxes that are being placed in business locations in the area by the Woman’s club. Volunteers will be needed August 14,16, 17 & 26. Watch for further details. If you have questions speak to Carol Lutcza or Betty Shuman.