

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 25, 2021

1st 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

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“We Gather Together”

Netherlands Folk Hymn

Arranged by Fred Bock

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

CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 56 & Colossians 1)

Come and worship, all you who love and serve the Lord—

outsiders and insiders, old-timers and new-comers,

the young, old and the in-between.

Come as you are, for this is God’s house—a house of prayer for all people,

and God welcomes each one who comes.

Come and worship Christ,

the visible image of the invisible God,

the firstborn of creation, the eternal God:

the one through whom all things were created,

and in whom all things are held together.

This is our God! Let us worship together.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, we pray that you would give us the knowledge and insight that comes from you alone. May we know your will in all things, and may our lives bring honor to your name.

Strengthen us with your infinite power, according to your glorious might, so that we would have everything we need to endure hardship with patience and joy.

We praise you for bringing us into your kingdom of light. We praise you that we can share in the inheritance that belongs to your people.

And we praise you that in Christ we are gathered together, a community of believers, of doubters, of faithful and of inquirers; all have been redeemed and set free in Christ. All praise to you, gracious and merciful God. Amen.

HYMN 300 WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT

**We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
 We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
 And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
 And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
 Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
 We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,
 And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
 Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
 We will work with each other; we will work side by side,
 And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
 Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
 And all praise to Christ Jesus God's only Son,
 And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
 Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation, which begins with our reconciling with God. Trusting in the grace of God, let us make our confession together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the places in our lives that are hurtful and hateful.
 We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with conditions. We judge and condemn instead of supporting and encouraging.
 We often cast the first stone, do not listen or see, and we do not turn to You as the source of our healing and wholeness.
 Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin, and empower us to live into the image of Christ in love and service. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Brothers and sisters in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. We are reminded always of this surpassing grace! Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Alleluia! 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

**Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand;
that, understanding, we may believe and believing, we may follow in all
faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS**ISAIAH 56:1-8**

Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

² Happy is the mortal who does this, the one who holds it fast,
who keeps the sabbath, not profaning it, and refrains from doing any evil.

³ Do not let the foreigner joined to the LORD say,
“The LORD will surely separate me from his people”;
and do not let the eunuch say, “I am just a dry tree.”

⁴ For thus says the LORD:

To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths, who choose the things that please me
and hold fast my covenant,

⁵ I will give, in my house and within my walls, a monument and a name
better than sons and daughters;

I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him,
to love the name of the LORD and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD,

who gathers the outcasts of Israel,

I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

PSALM 111

Praise the LORD!

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

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

³ Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ **He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;**

the LORD is gracious and merciful.

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

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

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.

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

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

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

COLOSSIANS 1:1-20

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

² To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³ In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. ⁷ This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸ and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

SERMON A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLE
Rev. Dr. Nancy Young

HYMN 321 THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord,
 She is his new creation by water and the word.
 From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride,
 With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
 Her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
 One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
 And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
 By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
 Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,
 She waits the consummation of peace forevermore:
 Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
 And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
 And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
 O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that, we,
 Like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally with thee!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*The Confession of 1967, 9.31, 9.32 - 33*)

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as his reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares his labor of healing the enmities which separate humanity from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to his call...In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of our life in society and of God's victory over all wrong.

The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

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 766 THE CHURCH OF CHRIST CANNOT BE BOUND

The church of Christ cannot be bound by walls of wood or stone,
Where charity and love are found, there can the church be known.

True faith will open up the door and step into the street,
True service will seek out the poor and ask to wash their feet.

True love will not sit idly by when justice is denied.
True mercy hears the homeless cry and welcomes them inside.

If what we have we freely share to meet our neighbor's need,
Then we extend the Spirit's care through every selfless deed.

The church of Christ cannot be bound by walls of wood or stone.
Where charity and love are found, there can the church be known.

CHARGE & BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE "Lead On, O King Eternal with The Lord Is My Light"**

Tune: Lancashire
Henry T. Smart (1813-1879)
"The Lord Is My Light"
Frances Allitsen (1848-1912)
Arranged by Anna Laura Page

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 1ST PRESBYTERIAN OF ROCKAWAY

- Go to our web page (fpcrockaway.org), scroll down to "donate" and give electronically
- Mail your donation to:
1st 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

“¹⁶ 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*

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Semi-Annual Pledge Statements

If you pledged for 2021 you will find your semi-annual pledge statements in a box in the Narthex. If you have a mail box in the office the statements have been put in your box in the office.

Finance Committee