

12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

June 20, 2021

1st Presbyterian of Rockaway

Join Zoom Worship (login beginning at 12 Noon EDT)

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Meeting ID: 468 322 0487

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE **“My Faith Looks Up t Thee”** Music by Lowell Mason

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

How very good and pleasant it is when sisters and brothers live together in unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head, like the dew that falls on the mountains of Zion.

Together, let us worship God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, you created the world and all that is in it. The wind and the sea obey your Son. You are the source of our strength and our confidence is in you. All praise be to you, our stronghold and savior. Amen.

HYMN 39 **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;

There is no shadow of turning with thee.

Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.

As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning, new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided,

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,

Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above

Join with all nature in manifold witness

To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

Refrain

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

We strive to be strong and self-sufficient, but in truth we are in constant need of grace. In penitence and faith, let us confess our weakness to God and to one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God, forgive us. We imagine that we can live without you, when you give us our very breath. We seek control over others rather than strive to live in unity. We allow fear to overtake us, even though our lives are in your hands. Draw us back into your steadfast love and shape us into the likeness of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ offers peace to our troubled souls. Believe this One whom even the wind and the sea obey. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of eternity, by the power of your Spirit, speak your Word to us this day, that hearing, we may know your truth and live ever more faithfully for you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

MARK 4:35-41

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, Jesus said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." ³⁶ And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷ A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹ He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" ⁴¹ And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

PSALM 9:9-20

⁹The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

¹⁰**And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.**

¹¹Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion. Declare his deeds among the peoples.

¹²**For he who avenges blood is mindful of them; he does not forget the cry of the afflicted.**

¹³Be gracious to me, O LORD. See what I suffer from those who hate me; you are the one who lifts me up from the gates of death,

¹⁴**so that I may recount all your praises, and, in the gates of daughter Zion, rejoice in your deliverance.**

¹⁵The nations have sunk in the pit that they made; in the net that they hid has their own foot been caught.

¹⁶**The LORD has made himself known, he has executed judgment; the wicked are snared in the work of their own hands.**

¹⁷The wicked shall depart to Sheol, all the nations that forget God.

¹⁸**For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor perish forever.**

¹⁹Rise up, O LORD! Do not let mortals prevail; let the nations be judged before you.

²⁰**Put them in fear, O LORD; let the nations know that they are only human.**

1 Samuel 17:1-49

Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephesdammim. ² Saul and the Israelites gathered and encamped in the valley of Elah, and formed ranks against the Philistines. ³ The Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. ⁴ And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. ⁵ He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. ⁶ He had greaves of bronze on his legs and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. ⁷ The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and his shield-bearer went before him. ⁸ He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. ⁹ If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." ¹⁰ And the Philistine said, "Today I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man, that we may fight together." ¹¹ When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

¹² Now David was the son of an Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, named Jesse, who had eight sons. In the days of Saul the man was already old and advanced in years. ¹³ The three eldest sons of Jesse had followed Saul to the battle; the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. ¹⁴ David was the youngest; the three eldest followed Saul, ¹⁵ but David went back and forth from Saul to feed his father's sheep at

Bethlehem. ¹⁶ For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening.

¹⁷ Jesse said to his son David, "Take for your brothers an ephah of this parched grain and these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers; ¹⁸ also take these ten cheeses to the commander of their thousand. See how your brothers fare, and bring some token from them."

¹⁹ Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. ²⁰ David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, took the provisions, and went as Jesse had commanded him. He came to the encampment as the army was going forth to the battle line, shouting the war cry. ²¹ Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. ²² David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage, ran to the ranks, and went and greeted his brothers. ²³ As he talked with them, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines, and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him. ²⁴ All the Israelites, when they saw the man, fled from him and were very much afraid. ²⁵ The Israelites said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. The king will greatly enrich the man who kills him, and will give him his daughter and make his family free in Israel." ²⁶ David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine, and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" ²⁷ The people answered him in the same way, "So shall it be done for the man who kills him."

²⁸ His eldest brother Eliab heard him talking to the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David. He said, "Why have you come down? With whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart; for you have come down just to see the battle." ²⁹ David said, "What have I done now? It was only a question." ³⁰ He turned away from him toward another and spoke in the same way; and the people answered him again as before.

³¹ When the words that David spoke were heard, they repeated them before Saul; and he sent for him. ³² David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." ³³ Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth." ³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵ I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God." ³⁷ David said, "The LORD, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you!"

³⁸ Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. ³⁹ David strapped Saul's sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them." So David removed them. ⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

⁴¹ The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. ⁴² When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. ⁴³ The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field." ⁴⁵ But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This very day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷ and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's and he will give you into our hand."

⁴⁸ When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹ David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

SERMON THERE ARE GIANTS IN THE LAND

HYMN 475 COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

**Come thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.**

**O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Christian Reformed Church)

**As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world— which some seek to control,
but which others view with despair— we declare with joy and trust:**

Our world belongs to God!

**From the beginning, through all the crises of our times, until his kingdom fully
comes, God keeps covenant forever.**

Our world belongs to God!

**God is King! Let the earth be glad! Christ is Victor; his rule has begun. Hallelujah!
The Spirit is at work, renewing creation. Praise the Lord!**

We rejoice in the goodness of God, renounce the works of darkness, and dedicate ourselves to holy living. As covenant partners, called to faithful obedience, and set free for joyful praise, we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in his world. With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended, we expect the Day of the Lord. And we are confident that the light which shines in the present darkness will fill the earth when Christ appears. Our world belongs to God!

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 546 LORD, DISMISS US WITH YOUR BLESSING

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound;
May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.

Savior, when your love shall call us, from our struggling pilgrim way,
Let no fear of death appall us, glad your summons to obey.
May we ever may we ever reign with you in endless day.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" by James Mansfield
Tune: Lobe Den Herren
from the Stralsund Gesangbuch, 1665

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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Sunday Morning Bible Study
Women of the Bible and of the Church
July 11 – August 15, 2021
Following Worship

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.