

Ordinary 6 B
May 9, 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)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”

Words & Music by Peter Scholtes
Arranged by Mark Hayes

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing to our God a new song.

God has done marvelous things!

Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Let the sea roar and all that fills it.

Let the world and its people sing together for joy!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God, help us to love others as Christ has loved us. Bring us into the spiritual joy of living our lives as your friend, and teach us to abide in your love, that we may show that love to the world.

Amen.

HYMN 282 COME DOWN, O LOVE DIVINE

Come down, O Love Divine; seek out this soul of mine,

And visit it with your own ardor glowing.

O Comforter, draw near; within my heart appear,

And kindle it, you holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn

To dust and ashes in its heat consuming.

And let your glorious light shine ever on my sight,

And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling.

For none can guess God’s grace, till Love creates a place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

We have been called to follow Christ by obeying his one commandment: that we love one another as he has loved us. Let us confess that we have fallen short of loving as Christ commands us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God we have not loved you or each other with our whole hearts. We have not always been open to welcome and delight in the people you put in our path. Forgive us, we pray, and lead us toward wholeness, that we may be filled with your joy. Be with us and help us to be more like you.
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ loves us so much that he laid down his life for us and calls us his friends. If we can forgive our friends, how much more does Christ forgive us!

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God, in the reading of your Word, that we would hear what you have to say to us today. May your Holy Spirit be poured out upon us, through Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

JOHN 15:9-17

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants^[a] any longer, because the servant^[b] does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

PSALM 98

¹O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

²**The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

³He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

⁵Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

⁸**Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy**

⁹at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

ACTS 10:1-48

¹⁰ In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called. ² He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God. ³ One afternoon at about three o'clock he had a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius." ⁴ He stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" He answered, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God." ⁵ Now send men to Joppa for a certain Simon who is called Peter; ⁶ he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside." ⁷ When the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his slaves and a devout soldier from the ranks of those who served him, ⁸ and after telling them everything, he sent them to Joppa.

⁹ About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance. ¹¹ He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. ¹² In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. ¹³ Then he heard a voice saying, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." ¹⁴ But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean." ¹⁵ The voice said to him again, a second time, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." ¹⁶ This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven. ¹⁷ Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen, suddenly the men sent by Cornelius appeared. They were asking for Simon's house and were standing by the gate. ¹⁸ They called out to ask whether Simon, who was called Peter, was staying there. ¹⁹ While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Look, three^[a] men are searching for you. ²⁰ Now get up, go down, and go with them without hesitation; for I have sent them." ²¹ So Peter went down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for your

coming?”²² They answered, “Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say.”²³ So Peter^[b] invited them in and gave them lodging.

The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the believers^[c] from Joppa accompanied him.²⁴ The following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.²⁵ On Peter’s arrival Cornelius met him, and falling at his feet, worshiped him.²⁶ But Peter made him get up, saying, “Stand up; I am only a mortal.”²⁷ And as he talked with him, he went in and found that many had assembled;²⁸ and he said to them, “You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or to visit a Gentile; but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean.²⁹ So when I was sent for, I came without objection. Now may I ask why you sent for me?”

³⁰ Cornelius replied, “Four days ago at this very hour, at three o’clock, I was praying in my house when suddenly a man in dazzling clothes stood before me.³¹ He said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.³² Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon, who is called Peter; he is staying in the home of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.’³³ Therefore I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. So now all of us are here in the presence of God to listen to all that the Lord has commanded you to say.”

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality,³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles,⁴⁶ for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said,⁴⁷ “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”⁴⁸ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay

SERMON

CHOOSING FRIENDS

HYMN 754

HELP US ACCEPT EACH OTHER

**Help us accept each other, as Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord among us and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.**

**Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
We struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
To love them as we find them, or as they may become**

**Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
In living situations to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance until we know by heart
The table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.**

**Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in heed,
Who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,
We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
Renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**Hope is stronger than memory.
Salvation is stronger than sin.
Forgiveness is stronger than bitterness.
Reconciliation is stronger than hatred.
Resurrection is stronger than crucifixion.
Light is stronger than darkness.
The empty tomb is stronger than the bloodied cross.
The risen Lord is stronger than the dead Jesus.
Easter is stronger than Good Friday.
We are the Easter people. We are the people of hope. We are the people of the
empty tomb, the risen Lord, the new life in Christ.**

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 317 IN CHRIST THERE IS NO EAST OR WEST
In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
But one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
Hi service is the golden cord close-binding human kind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet south and north,
All Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Toccatà in C Major" by Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)
Edited by Hal H. Hopson

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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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

TUESDAY MORNING STUDY

Love Wins_by Rob Bell

Time: 9:30 – 11:30 am

Date: Tuesdays May 11 thru June 22, 2021

Time: May 11, 2021 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Tue, until Jun 22, 2021, 7 occurrence(s)

May 11, 2021 09:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88632477188?pwd=bmlPREVvTlZ5MEdaRlRzMVROUTI4dz09>

Meeting ID: 886 3247 7188

Passcode: 413981

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,88632477188#,,,,*413981# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,88632477188#,,,,*413981# US (New York)

Meeting ID: 886 3247 7188

Passcode: 413981



PENTECOST – MAY 23, 2021

We will return to worship in the sanctuary! Masks are required. Please enter through the center door in the back of the sanctuary, where you will be asked to sign in, have your temperature taken, etc. It is with gratitude to God that we gather together once more.

If you worship on Zoom – we will continue to Zoom the worship service from the sanctuary.



Please Support Our Local Food Closet

Soon we will enter the summer months when historically, food and toiletry donations begin to decline.

ITEMS URGENTLY NEEDED:

<u>FOOD</u>
Peanut Butter
Tuna
Macaroni & Cheese
Pasta
Sauce
Canned Fruit

<u>TOILETRIES</u>
Shampoo
Soap
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Deodorant
Feminine Hygiene Products

Please bring all donations to the back door of our church Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30am – 12:30pm. Perishable items such as milk, eggs, and bread cannot be received at this time.

Thank you from Rise Up

"KIND SOLES" SHOE DRIVE!



RiseUP Rockaway is collecting shoes of any type, in any condition! Drop off is at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, located at 508 Green Pond Road in Rockaway, between May 1 and June 15. Arrangements can also be made to pick up large donations! For details, please contact riseuprockaway@gmail.com or go to riseupnj.org.