

**January 2, 2022  
1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian of Rockaway**

**Join Zoom Worship (login beginning at 10:30 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)**

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into God's presence with singing.

**People: For the Lord is a gracious God, whose mercy is everlasting; and whose faithfulness endures forever.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY: from Psalm 25 – in unison**

**I offer you my heart, Lord God, and I trust you...Show me your paths and teach me to follow; guide me by your truth and instruct me. You keep me safe, and I always trust you. You lead humble people to do what is right and to stay on your path. In everything you do, you are kind and faithful to everyone who keeps your covenant. I obey you with all my heart and I trust you, knowing that you will save me.**

**HYMN: # 697                      Take My Life [verses 1,2,3,5]**

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee  
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing, always only, for my King;  
take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from thee,  
filled with messages from thee.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.  
take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne,  
it shall be thy royal throne.

### **INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

The proof of God's amazing love is that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, let us with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Let us confess our sins before God.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name, Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Here this good news! The saying is true and worthy of acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you that in the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven. 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.**

### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

#### **Philippians 4: 4-7**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

#### **Daniel 6: 1-16**

<sup>1</sup> It please Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred twenty satraps, stationed throughout the whole kingdom, <sup>2</sup> and over them three presidents, including Daniel; to these the satraps gave account, so that the king might suffer no loss. <sup>3</sup> Soon Daniel distinguished himself above all the

other presidents and satraps because an excellent spirit was in him, and the king planned to appoint him over the whole kingdom. <sup>4</sup> So the presidents and the satraps tried to find grounds for complaint against Daniel in connection with the kingdom. But they could find no grounds for complaint or any corruption, because he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption could be found in him. <sup>5</sup> The men said, “We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God.”

<sup>6</sup> So the presidents and satraps conspired and came to the king and said to him, “O King Darius, live forever! <sup>7</sup> All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an interdict, that whoever prays to anyone, divine or human, for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions. <sup>8</sup> Now, O king, establish the interdict and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked.” <sup>9</sup> Therefore King Darius signed the document and interdict.

<sup>10</sup> Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open toward Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously. <sup>11</sup> The conspirators came and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God. <sup>12</sup> Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict, “O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human, within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions?” The king answered, “The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked.” <sup>13</sup> Then they responded to the king, “Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day.”

<sup>14</sup> When the king heard the charge, he was very much distressed. He was determined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down he made every effort to rescue him. <sup>15</sup> Then the conspirators came to the king and said to him, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no interdict or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.”

<sup>16</sup> Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!”

## **SERMON**

### **What’s Your New Year’s Resolution?**

**Elder Mel Prestamo**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us confess the faith of our baptism:

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried, the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

For Concerns, let the people say: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For Joys, let the people say: **Praise be to God.**

## **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 #442**

#### **Just As I Am**

Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou biddest me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken, every barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come; I come.

## **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper:**

### **INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:**

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING:**

L: The Lord be with you.

P: **And also, with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, our creator. You have given us life and second birth in your Spirit. Once we were no people, but now we are

your people. You claimed Israel as your chosen nation and raised up the church as a witness to the resurrection, breathing into it your life and power. From worlds apart, you gathered us together. When we go astray, you welcome us home. Always, your love has been steadfast.

L: Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

L: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. In love with you and in compassion for all, Jesus healed and taught, challenged and comforted, welcomed and saved. He formed a community, promising to be with his disciples wherever two or three were gathered, and sending them on his mission of hope and healing in the world. Jesus trusted his life to you, and went freely to his death, so the world might be set free from suffering and sin. You raised him from death and raise us also to live a new life with him. In the power of the Holy Spirit, you send us out to make disciples as he commanded. Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

L: Great is the mystery of faith.

**ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

L: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Father God, we live in a world of strife, of our own making. There is turmoil in the world, we have done that. There is hunger in the world, we have caused that. There is persecution in the world and we have allowed that. This beautiful paradise that you created is crying out for your intervention and healing. We pray for peace, not man-made peace but your Peace, the Peace of Christ. We pray for an end to hunger in the world; not only of the hunger for daily bread but of hunger for your Word. Feed us with the Bread that will nourish us for all eternity. We also pray for forgiveness, not only your forgiveness of our own shortcomings but our forgiveness of those whom we come in contact with every day. Create in us a clean heart that can be forgiving. In His name we pray.

L: O God, today you have called us together to be the church. Unite us now at your table, and in one loaf and a common cup, make us one in Christ Jesus. Let your Spirit empower the life we share and ignite our witness in the world. With all who have gone before us, keep us faithful to the gospel teachings and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Give us strength to serve you until the promised day of the resurrection, when with the redeemed of all the ages we will feast with you at your table in glory. Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. Amen.

**BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

L: The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me. Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes. The gifts from God for the people of God.

**Prayer After Communion:**

Gracious God, may we who have received this sacrament live in the unity of your Holy Spirit, that we may show forth your gifts to all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**\*HYMN #824                      Near to the Heart of God**

There is a place of quiet rest near to the heart of God,  
a place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.

*Refrain*

O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,  
hold us, who wait before thee, near to the heart of God.

There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God,  
a place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God.

*Refrain*

There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God,  
a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God.

*Refrain*

**CHARGE**

My charge to you today is that you change your routine. Look at how you approach your daily lives and stop to make God apart of every moment. Begin your day in prayer and place God in a position of prominence. Take a moment to recognize the gifts that God is giving you each day. And thank God for them. Then stop and tell God that you trust God’s plan for our lives.

**BENEDICTION**

May the God of mercy and love walk beside you and guide you on your way, cause his face to shine upon you, to give you grace and peace. Amen.

**POSTLUDE**

*Please remain seated and give thanks to God. .*

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