

**15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**July 11, 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**

**“Holy Ground”**

by Geron Davis

Arranged by Phillip Keveren

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Sister and brothers, let us come together to worship God.**

Miracle of miracles, God loves us unconditionally.

**God call us to love and to live as Christ did.**

God's grace has saved us!

**We are citizens of God's world and stewards of God's creation.**

So we are saved by grace through faith. Not our doing, but God's actions.

**Praise God!**

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**O God of grace, we thank you that today you have called us to worship you and learn of you. You alone know our needs. Satisfy them with your unchanging love.**

**In your presence may we find comfort in sorrow, guidance in perplexity, strength to meet temptation, grace to overcome the fascination of disobedience, and courage to face up to the hostility of this rebellious world.**

**Above all, may we meet Jesus and go out from our worship renewed and hopeful.**

**This prayer we ask to your glory and in his name. Amen.**

**HYMN 405**

**PRAISE GOD FOR THIS HOLY GROUND**

**Praise God for this holy ground, place and people, sight and sound.**

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God's goodness is eternal.**

**Praise God in whose word we find food for body, soul, and mind**

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God's goodness is eternal.**

**Praise God who through Christ makes know all are loved and called God's own.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God's goodness is eternal.**

**Praise God's Spirit who befriends, raises, humbles, breaks, and mends.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God's goodness is eternal.**

**Though praise ends, praise is begun where God's will is gladly done.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God's goodness is eternal.**

### **INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

All of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. Let us confess our sins together, confident of God's love and grace.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Before God and God's people, we confess that we have been reluctant to speak out clearly, naming the injustice we see and declaring God's vision.**

**Before God and one another, we confess our reluctance to receive our calling as God's people: we are made by God and chosen as witnesses to God's dream of justice and joy.**

**Remind me, God, that you have made us for your service and encourage us with your grace. Renew us, God. Grant us vision to live out your way of peace and grace. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (Eph. 2 4-5)

Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in sin – it is by grace we have been saved.

**Thanks be to God!**

**SPECIAL MUSIC    HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?    Robert Wadsworth Lowry.**  
David Young, Baritone    Micah Young, piano

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**O God, your Word is more precious than fine gold, and sweeter than purest honey. As we turn to your Scripture, send your Holy Spirit to infuse your Word with truth and grace — so that the good news of your love would shine before our eyes and delight our senses ... so that we cannot help but respond with wonder, faith and trust. Amen.**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

#### **2 CHRONICLES 30:1-9**

Hezekiah sent word to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the passover to the LORD the God of Israel. <sup>2</sup>For the king and his officials and all the

assembly in Jerusalem had taken counsel to keep the passover in the second month <sup>3</sup> (for they could not keep it at its proper time because the priests had not sanctified themselves in sufficient number, nor had the people assembled in Jerusalem). <sup>4</sup> The plan seemed right to the king and all the assembly. <sup>5</sup> So they decreed to make a proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beer-sheba to Dan, that the people should come and keep the passover to the LORD the God of Israel, at Jerusalem; for they had not kept it in great numbers as prescribed. <sup>6</sup> So couriers went throughout all Israel and Judah with letters from the king and his officials, as the king had commanded, saying, "O people of Israel, return to the LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, so that he may turn again to the remnant of you who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria. <sup>7</sup> Do not be like your ancestors and your kindred, who were faithless to the LORD God of their ancestors, so that he made them a desolation, as you see. <sup>8</sup> Do not now be stiff-necked as your ancestors were, but yield yourselves to the LORD and come to his sanctuary, which he has sanctified forever, and serve the LORD your God, so that his fierce anger may turn away from you. <sup>9</sup> For as you return to the LORD, your kindred and your children will find compassion with their captors, and return to this land. For the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if you return to him."

### **PSALM 103**

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

**<sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—**

<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

**<sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the Pit,**

**who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

<sup>5</sup> who satisfies you with good as long as you live

so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**<sup>6</sup> The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

<sup>7</sup> He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

**<sup>8</sup> The LORD is merciful and gracious,**

**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

<sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

**<sup>10</sup> He does not deal with us according to our sins,**

**nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup> For as the heavens are high above the earth,

so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

**<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west,**

**so far he removes our transgressions from us.**

<sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion for his children,

so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

**<sup>14</sup> For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.**

<sup>15</sup> As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field;

**<sup>16</sup> for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.**

<sup>17</sup> But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting

on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children,

**<sup>18</sup> to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.**

<sup>19</sup> The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

<sup>20</sup> **Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding,  
obedient to his spoken word.**

<sup>21</sup> Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will.

<sup>22</sup> **Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul.**

### **EPHESIANS 2:1-10**

You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

**SERMON**

**AMAZING GRACE**

**Rev. Dr. Nancy Young**

**HYMN 649**

**AMAZING GRACE verses 1-3**

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Adapted from the French Confession of 1559)

**We believe and confess only one God,  
who can do all things, is all-wise, all-good, all-just, and all-merciful.**

**We believe that everything required for our salvation  
has been offered and communicated to us in Jesus Christ,  
the wisdom of God and God's eternal Son.**

**Jesus Christ clothed himself in our flesh:  
God and human in one person.**

**We believe that we are illuminated in faith  
by the unfathomable grace of the Holy Spirit.**

**God imparts this gracious gift.**

**By faith we receive grace**

to live holy lives in awe and reverence for God,  
for we receive what the gospel promises  
when God gives us the Holy Spirit.  
Faith does not cool our desire for good and holy living,  
but rather engenders and excites it in us,  
leading naturally to good works.

**MINUTE FOR MISSION – Karen Basile**

**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 649                                      AMAZING GRACE verse 4 & 5**

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise, than when we’d first begun.

**CHARGE & BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE                                      “Toccata”                                      from Partita on “St. Anne”  
by David Lasky**

*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

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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**

*“<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*