

# THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

## MAY 17, 2020

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

### 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 395 Blessed Jesus, At Your Word

Blessed Jesus, at thy word we have come to hear you;

let our hearts and souls and in glowing faith be near you.

By your gospel true and holy, teach us, Lord, to love thee soley.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded,  
till your spirit breaks our night, filling us with light unclouded.

All good thoughts and all good living come by your gracious giving.

Glorious Lord, yourself impart, light of light, from God proceeding,  
Touch our lips and ears and heart; help us by your spirit's pleading.

Hear the cry your church now raises; hear, and bless our prayers and praises.

### 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. In Jesus' Name we pray. 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**

#### **1 Peter 3:13-22**

**<sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, <sup>16</sup>speaking of this as he does in all his letters. There are some things in them hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other scriptures. <sup>17</sup>You therefore, beloved, since you are forewarned, beware that you are not carried away with the error of the lawless and lose your own stability. <sup>18</sup>But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.**

#### **Psalm 66**

**<sup>1</sup>Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;**

**<sup>2</sup>sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise.**

**<sup>3</sup>Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.**

**<sup>4</sup>All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name."**

**<sup>5</sup>Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds among mortals.**

**<sup>6</sup>He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There we rejoiced in him,**

**<sup>7</sup>who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations— let the rebellious not exalt themselves.**

**<sup>8</sup>Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard,**

**<sup>9</sup>who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.**

**<sup>10</sup>For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.**

**<sup>11</sup>You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;**

**<sup>12</sup>you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.**

**<sup>13</sup>I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows,**

**<sup>14</sup>those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.**

**<sup>15</sup>I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats.**

**<sup>16</sup>Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.**

<sup>17</sup>I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.

<sup>18</sup>**If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.**

<sup>19</sup>But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

<sup>20</sup>**Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.**

### **Acts 17:22-31**

<sup>22</sup>**Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ <sup>29</sup>Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead**

**SERMON                      A Clear Vision of God**

**HYMN 353                    My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less**

**My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.  
On Christ, the solid R=rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.  
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.  
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**His oath, His covenant, and blood Support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.  
All other ground is sinking sand.**

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,  
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before the throne!  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.  
All other ground is sinking sand.

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**            **Michael Perry**  
We believe and know  
that Jesus is the Holy One of God.

We believe that he is the Christ,  
the Son of God,  
who was to come into the world.

We believe that he is in the Father  
and the Father is in him.

We believe that Jesus is the Christ,  
the Son of God,  
and that by believing  
we have life in his name. Amen.

#### **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 462 I Love to Tell the Story**

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and his glory; of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story; because I know 'tis true;  
It satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.  
I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat  
What seems each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word.  
I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story for those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.  
I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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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 07886

**If you have received your stimulus check, consider this:**

**10% to the church**

**10% to any charity that helps with the COVID crisis**

**80% for your own use**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**