

**Ordinary 7 B**  
**May 16, 2021**  
**1<sup>st</sup> 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**

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP (from Ps. 139)**

Where can we go from God's presence? Where can we flee from God's spirit?

**If we ascend to heaven, God is there. If we die on earth, God is here.**

If we take the wings of the morning, and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

**God, even there your hand shall lead me, your hand shall hold me fast.**

Even if the darkness covers us, and the light around us becomes night,

**Even the darkness is not dark to you, O God.**

For the night is as bright as the day,

**Darkness is as light to you.**

Come, let us worship the God who created us.

**Let us worship the God who brings us into life.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Loving God, we pray that you, the Creator of Glory, may give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation that we may come into relationship with you in a closer way, that the eyes of our heart may be enlightened. May we know the immeasurable greatness of your power. May you work in us to build your reign here on earth. May we know this hope that you have called us to, the hope of new life now and the promise of the resurrection. We pray in the name of the Risen Christ, the head of the church, that we as the body may know the fullness of Christ in our lives, and continue to work for the reign of God here on earth. Amen.

**HYMN 634 TO GOD BE THE GLORY**

To God be the glory; great things he has done!

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,

Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,

And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!

O Com to the Father through Jesus the Son,

And give him the glory great things he has done!

**Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer and higher and greater will be  
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!  
O Com to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
And give him the glory great things he has done!**

### **INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

Let us confess our sins before God, our help in times of trouble.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, we confess that while we celebrate being one in Christ, we have done our part to create discord and division. We have not prayed enough to be one, but rather we have prayed to be right. We have not prayed for our brothers and sisters to be reconciled to us, but we have prayed that they would be punished and that we would be rewarded. We confess that we have put being right above righteousness. We have put ourselves above your ways of living and caring for the poor and the outcast. Forgive us, O God, for not living into your vision of unity. Forgive us, O God, when we seek our own ways rather than your ways, when we twist your teachings to satisfy living our ways rather than truly seeking Your ways. Help us to do our part, to repent of our selfishness, and to turn back to you. In the name of Christ, our Redeemer and Savior, we pray.**

*Silent prayer*

**Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Jesus prayed, "May they be one, as you and I are one." May we turn away from division and work towards reconciliation, knowing that we ourselves are forgiven and reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, our Savior, Redeemer, and Friend on this journey of faith. **Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find wisdom, and in your will discover your peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Acts 16:16-34**

<sup>16</sup> One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you<sup>[a]</sup> a way of salvation." <sup>18</sup> She kept doing this for many days.

But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

<sup>19</sup> But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. <sup>20</sup> When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews <sup>21</sup> and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." <sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. <sup>24</sup> Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. <sup>27</sup> When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." <sup>29</sup> The jailer<sup>[L]</sup> called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup> They spoke the word of the Lord<sup>[L]</sup> to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup> At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. <sup>34</sup> He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

## **PSALM 97**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is king! Let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!

<sup>2</sup>**Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.**

<sup>3</sup>Fire goes before him, and consumes his adversaries on every side.

<sup>4</sup>**His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.**

<sup>5</sup>The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.

<sup>6</sup>**The heavens proclaim his righteousness; and all the peoples behold his glory.**

<sup>7</sup>All worshipers of images are put to shame, those who make their boast in worthless idols; all gods bow down before him.

<sup>8</sup>**Zion hears and is glad, and the towns of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O God.**

<sup>9</sup>For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD loves those who hate evil; he guards the lives of his faithful; he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.**

<sup>11</sup>Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.

<sup>12</sup>**Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!**

**John 17:20-26**

<sup>20</sup> “I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us,<sup>[a]</sup> so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

<sup>25</sup> “Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

## **SERMON    FREEDOM, O FREEDOM!**

### **HYMN 661    WHY SHOULD I FEEL DISCOURAGED?**

**Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?  
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home,  
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he:  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.  
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,  
For his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.**

**“Let not your heart be troubled,” his tender word I hear,  
And resting on his goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;  
Though by the path he leadeth but one step I may see:  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.  
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,  
For his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.**

**Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,  
When song gives place to sighing, when hope within me dies,  
I draw the closer to him; from care he sets me free:  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.  
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,  
For his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.**

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH(Rev. Amanda Burr)**

**We believe in God, the creator of all things, the giver of life and breath.  
We believe in Jesus Christ, born Emmanuel, God with us, baptized and revealed  
the most beloved Son of God; he sought to heal humanity by taking our  
brokenness upon himself, suffering for us, dying for us and being raised from the**

dead for our sake and for the sake of all the world. We believe that he will come again.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, continually poured out refreshing our lives, leading us into a new day, ever-birthing the church, the body of Christ in the world.

This Spirit is our soul companion and counselor of truth reminding us of the gift of faith, the ever presence of God and the promise of eternal life.

Thanks be to God!

**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 774 THERE IS NOW A NEW CREATION**

There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ,  
Peace and reconciliation with the God of endless life.

Call the lost and found together; tell the news to everyone:  
Now the past is gone forever and a new life has begun.

Wrap the prodigal in welcome; run to greet the wayward child.  
All is finished and forgiven; let us now be reconciled.

Come and join the celebration; come and join this happy feast;  
Jesus makes an invitation to the greatest and the least.

There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ,  
Sing with thanks and adoration, to the God of endless life!

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Please remain seated and give thanks to God.*

+++++

Offering plates are available in the narthex and at the exit door.

+++++

**GIVING TO 1<sup>ST</sup> PRESBYTERIAN OF ROCKAWAY**

- Go to our web page (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

+++++

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: *THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO...by Peter Enns***

Sunday mornings, 9:30 am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86009408183?pwd=S3h0UnYrQ2x0VkQxbnFXMDVUWUhpPdz09>

Meeting ID: 860 0940 8183

Passcode: 456034

Come join us!

+++++

**TUESDAY MORNING STUDY: *LOVE WINS* by Rob Bell**

Tuesdays, 9:30 am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88632477188?pwd=bmIPREvTIZ5MEdaRIRsMVRoUTI4dz09>

Meeting ID: 886 3247 7188

Passcode: 413981

+++++

**A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION**

For Donald Budis will take place on May 29, at 12 pm following visitation from 10 am – 12 pm at Norman Dean Funeral Home 16 Righter Ave, Denville.