

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 8, 2020

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude

“Cantate Domino!”

Ariana Billiot & Riley Wescott

Mary Lynn Lightfoot

Call to Worship

Come, let us bow down in worship,

let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture,

the flock under his care.

Hymn 346

“For the Healing of the Nations”

1 For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.

2 Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.

3 All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.

4 You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness, bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,

our sins are too heavy to carry,

too real to hide,

and too deep to undo.

Forgive what our lips tremble to name,

what our hearts can no longer bear,

and what has become for us

a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change,

open to us a future in which we can be changed;

and grant us grace to grow

more and more in your likeness and image;

Through Jesus Christ, the light of the World. Amen.

Silent Confession

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson: Amos 5:18-24

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

A Moment with Our Children

Second Scripture Lesson: Matthew 25:1-13

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Sermon: “Holy Exhibitionists”

Dr. Eelman

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn 175

“Seek Ye First”

1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

2 Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

3 You shall not live by bread alone, but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, alleluia!

Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed

***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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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 Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.***

Minute for Stewardship

Offering

Offertory

“Andante”

Paul Beniot

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

GO IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn 757

“Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”

1 Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

2 God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race
to live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife.
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

3 Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for a harmony of peace.

4 May we in service to our God act out the living word,
and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

“Gothic Minuet on ‘Kingsfold’”

arr. Matthew F. Walicke

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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

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|---|-----------------------|
| Guest Preacher | Rev. Dr. Brent Eelman |
| Liturgist | Melba Fialko |
| Coordinator for Children and Youth Ministries | Jana Schillinger |
| Director of Music | Frank Jones |
| Organist | Kay Ten Eyck |
| Usher | Bill Farrell |

This morning we welcome the Rev. Dr. Joanne G. Weiss. She will discuss with us our need to stay healthy in body, mind and spirit through these stressful times. She will share tools to help us manage our stress, as well as how to cultivate resilience.

Managing Stress and Cultivating Resilience in Challenging Times

A presentation by the Rev. Dr. Joanne G. Weiss, MSW, M.Div., M.A., D.Arts

Sunday, November 8 after worship (both in-person and online)

The Coronavirus pandemic impacts all aspects of our lives, with the prospect of it continuing for an unknown period of time. We need to stay as healthy as possible at all levels of our being: body, mind, and spirit. This presentation walks us through the most effective, short, in-the-moment tools and practices used to manage our stress. It will also highlight how to cultivate resilience by strengthening core qualities of strength, courage and love so we can embrace the challenges of these times and deepen and grow through them. Her program will be presented in the sanctuary and live-streamed on YouTube.



Church Family Announcements

We welcome all to our worship today. **Please sign in at the Welcome Table.** (In the event of an infection, you will be contacted.)

Our congregation intends to worship God, equips God's people for ministry in the world, and serves God in ways that are faithful to the Gospel.

For those of us in the sanctuary today, there are some details to review in the hope that no virus will be spread due to this gathering.

- All are required to wear face masks, sit only in designated pews, and maintain six feet of distance from people of other households.
- You may participate in the spoken segments of the service, but please do not sing.
- If you would like to visit with other worshippers, do so after exiting the building.
- At present, seating is limited to 50 people in the sanctuary, including worship leaders. Notify the church office (office@fpccs.org or 570-586-6306) by Friday noon when you plan to attend.

Tell us your prayer concerns. Prayer Request Cards are available in the pews. They may be dropped in the offering plates as you enter or exit the sanctuary.

Christian Education for children and youth continues despite the pandemic. See below for offerings. Contact Jana Schillinger for additional information at ce@fpccs.org.

For kids and teens, we offer:

- **Grace & Faith:** children age 4 to grade 5 will have a weekly lesson from our *Growing in Grace & Gratitude* curriculum. We will post a short video, downloadable worksheets, and more at fpccsaway-grace.blogspot.com for you to enjoy whenever fits best in your schedule.
- **We Believe:** youth grade 6 and up can visit fpccsaway-believe.blogspot.com for a weekly post featuring a Bible passage, reflection, and questions to ponder.

The Adults are taking a bit of a break from Wednesday classes. **Rev. Carter will lead an Advent Bible study on Wednesdays in December** (December 2, 9, 16, 23). Watch for details.

Additional information can be found in the monthly newsletter and on our website, fpccs.org

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET – November 1 through 22, 2020

The Mission and Justice Committee in past years has sponsored the Alternative Gift Market, usually held on a Sunday in late November. The Alternative Gift Market provides the opportunity for the congregation and the greater community to purchase fair trade items produced internationally, and also to support efforts to assist disadvantaged people throughout the world.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, we are unable this year to have the market displays and personal interaction we have previously enjoyed. Nonetheless, we still intend to have the market using a somewhat diminished and different format. Products and services for SERRV International and Heifer International will still be offered for purchase. **From November 1 through November 22**, catalogs from these entities will be available in the church narthex. You will then be able to purchase your items directly. Please return the catalogs to the narthex upon completion of your order(s).

For those of you who do not plan to be in the church building, on-line catalogs are also available for your benefit as follows:

SERRV International – serrv.org
Heifer International – heifer.org

In addition, as has been done in the past to support more local projects, it will be possible to purchase candy (\$8.00 per 1 lb. box) supporting Appalachian Service Project (ASP). Forms, with ordering directions, will also be available in the church narthex during the above referenced dates, or you may contact Sue Whitman, ASP coordinator, at (570) 510-1356.

Thank you for your continued support of these important missions.

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit offers electronic Giving as a way to support the church on a regular or one-time basis. You can go to fpccs.org or **scan the QR code** (at right) anytime to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history. Why not give it a try today?



We are being offered two opportunities to share the love of Christ during this Advent.



Pajamas for local children

The first will sound familiar: do you remember the Angel Tree? Of course! The mission of providing pajamas to Scranton Head-Start programs **will** take place. You may sign up to purchase pajamas for a child by going to our website, fpccs.org, or by calling the church office on weekdays. When you sign up, you will be given the size and gender of a child that needs warm pajamas for winter.

The second opportunity is brand new! Our Christian Education Committee is offering Advent Boxes for our members and friends. Take time as a family to explore the meaning of Advent. We encourage our families to **sign up to receive an Advent Box** filled with an Advent calendar, devotions, activity suggestions, supplies for a craft, and more. All ages and everyone in the church is welcome and encouraged to participate, so boxes will be available both for families with children and for those without.



This Week at a Glance

Today

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| 10:00AM | * Morning Worship | Sanctuary |
| 11:00 | * Presentation by Rev. Dr. Joanne Weiss | Sanctuary |

Monday, November 9

Tuesday, November 10

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| 10:00AM | * MBK Quilters | Fellowship Hall |
| 7:00PM | * Session | Fellowship Hall |

Wednesday, November 11

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| 5:30PM | * BoomWhacker Choir | Sanctuary |
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Thursday, November 12

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| 7:30PM | * Lyric Rehearsal | Sanctuary |
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Friday, November 13

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| 9:30 AM | * Immerse Study Group - Poets | Room 206 |
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Saturday, November 14

Sunday, November 15

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| 10:00AM | * Worship | Sanctuary |
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Please reserve your seat: office@fpccs.org or 570-586-6306.

- * denotes gathering is face-to-face, with masks and socially-distant seating.
- (Z)** denotes gathering is online using ZOOM. Check website or call office for the link.

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