

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 4, 2020

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

arr. John Behnke

Call to Worship

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

This was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes.

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Hymn 321

"The Church's One Foundation"

- 1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.
She is his new creation by water and the word.
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride.
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
- 2 Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.
- 3 Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
- 4 Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore:
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
- 5 Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we are unworthy servants.

We have broken faith with you in thought and word and deed.

We are ashamed of the evil that dwells within us,

and we confess that our very best falls far short of your vision for us.

Forgive our sin, for Jesus' sake,

and restore us to fellowship with you and all your holy ones. Amen.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

A Moment with Our Children

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 21:33-46

“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Sermon: “Stupid Is As Stupid Does”

Fall Sermon Series: The Ornerly Parables of Christ

Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn 209

"My Song Is Love Unknown"

- 1 My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.
O who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?
- 2 He came from heaven's throne salvation to bestow;
the world that was his own would not its Savior know.
But O my Friend, my Friend indeed, who at my need his life did spend!
- 3 Sometimes we strew his way, and his sweet praises sing,
resounding all the day hosannas to our King.
Then "Crucify!" is all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.
- 4 Unheeding, we will have our dear Lord made away,
a murderer to save, the prince of life to slay.
Yet steadfast he to suffering goes, that he his foes from thence might free.
- 5 Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine:
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.

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 Peace and Global Witness Offering
Offering
Offertory

"Come, Let Us Eat"

Diane Scheuer
arr. David Cherwien

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table
Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer
The Words of Institution
Communion of the People

Prayers of the People

GO IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn 526

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

- 1 Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken; the wine is poured; Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain:

Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again; pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again; pass the Word around: loaves abound!

- 2 Christ is able to make us one; at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. (Refrain)
- 3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere! (Refrain)

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

"Siyahamba"

arr. John Behnke

The flowers have been given by JoAnn Hall to the glory of God and in loving memory of her husband, Fritz Hall, and her parents, Claribel and Boyd Todd.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	Rev. William Carter
Liturgist	Grace Farrell
Coordinator for Children and Youth Ministries	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Ushers	Mick Wirth

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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.

The Session has called a **congregational meeting for today, Sunday, October 4**, immediately after the worship service. The purpose of the special meeting is to elect officers and approve revised by-laws.

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.

Interested in joining our church? Rev. Carter will begin A New Member Conversation next Sunday, October 11, after worship in Fellowship Hall. If Interested, contact the church office (office@fpccs.org or 570-586-6306).

St. Francis Clothing Center is not receiving clothing at this time due to virus concerns. Please hold your clothing donations until a later date, or deposit in road-side collection boxes.

This Week at a Glance

Today

10:00AM	* Morning Worship	Sanctuary
	* Congregational Meeting	Sanctuary
11:00	* Led by Chris Norton, a conversation on the book, “The Second Mountain: The Quest of a Moral Life.”	Fellowship Hall

Monday, October 5

7:00-8:00PM	(Z) Mission and Justice Meeting	ZOOM
7:00-8:00	(Z) A study on Spiritual Practices . Each week, download and read an article from “Light from the Hill.” Rev. Bill will lead a conversation each Monday through October 19.	ZOOM

Tuesday, October 6

Wednesday, October 7

5:30PM	*Boomwhackers rehearsal	Sanctuary
6:15-7:15	(Z) Rev. Carter will lead an exploration of the text for the upcoming sermon.	ZOOM

Thursday, October 8

5:30PM	*A & R	Sanctuary
7:00	*Finance Committee	Room 206
7:00	(Z) Worship/Music/Arts Committee	ZOOM

Friday, October 9

9:30AM	*Immerse (Poets) Study Group	Room 206
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Saturday, October 10

Sunday, October 11

10:00AM	* Worship Please reserve your seat: office@fpccs.org or 570-586-6306.	Sanctuary
11:00	* New Member Conversation	Fellowship Hall

* 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.

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?



First Presbyterian Church
300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411
570/586-6306
www.fpccs.org

Report of the Nominating Committee

Nominated for:

Elder, class of 2023

Alan Baker
Tabbi Miller-Scandle
Jan Thyren
Karen White

Deacon, class of 2023

Erika Henderson
Jim McLaughlin
Debbie Miller
Barbara Norton
Riley Wescott
