

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 25, 2020

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude

"Built on a Rock"

arr. Paul Manz

Call to Worship

Our help is in the name of the Lord

who made heaven and earth.

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Hymn 645

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

- 1 Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory!
- 2 What God's almighty power has made God's gracious mercy keepeth;
by morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.
Within the kingdom of God's might, lo! all is just and all is right:
to God all praise and glory!
- 3 The Lord is never far away, but, through all grief distressing,
an ever-present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing,
as with a mother's tender hand God gently leads the chosen band:
to God all praise and glory!
- 4 Thus all my toilsome way along I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body, take your part:
to God all praise and glory!

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.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

A Moment with Our Children

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 22:23-33

The same day some Sadducees came to him, saying there is no resurrection; and they asked him a question, saying, "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies childless, his brother shall marry the widow, and raise up children for his brother.' Now there were seven brothers among us; the first married, and died childless, leaving the widow to his brother. The second did the same, so also the third, down to the seventh. Last of all, the woman herself died. In the resurrection, then, whose wife of the seven will she be? For all of them had married her." Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is God not of the dead, but of the living." And when the crowd heard it, they were astounded at his teaching.

Sermon: "She Wore Out Seven Husbands"

Fall Sermon Series: The Ornerly Parables of Christ

Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn 493

"Now There Is No Male or Female"

- 1 Now there is no male or female; now there is no free or slave;
now there is no Jew or Gentile in the earth Christ died to save.
Christ has set us free for freedom: we no more sing slavery's creed;
old submissions cannot claim us; Christ has set us free indeed.
- 2 Crucified with Christ the Savior, baptized in his holy death,
and as Christ was raised to glory we have new life on this earth.
Power of water and God's naming, turning us from dark to light,
joins us to those who, before us, ran the race and fought the fight.

3 Death has no dominion o'er him, so for us death holds no power;
life's own waters now have marked us, born to God this very hour.
From this moment and forever dead to sin, alive in Christ,
born of water and the Spirit, now in Christ we find our life.

Litany of Gifts

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ,

and individually members of it.

Statement on Ordination and Installation

Introduction of Officers Elect and Constitutional Questions

Ordination Prayer

Welcome and Charge

Minute for Stewardship

Offering

Offertory

“O Master Let Me Walk With Thee”

arr. Kevin McChesney

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

GO IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn 733

"We All Are One in Mission"

- 1 We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission compels us from above
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.
- 2 We all are called for service to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others by God's surprising grace,
so every folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.
- 3 Now let us be united and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming word.
We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

arr. John Leavitt

The flowers have been given to the glory of God in loving memory of Johanna Conklin by her husband, John.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	Rev. William Carter
Liturgist/Director of Bells	Richard Cochrane
Coordinator for Children and Youth Ministries	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Usher	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.

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.

We are hosting a Trunk or Treat event for kids on Saturday, October 31 from 2:00 to 3:30 in the upper parking lot. Can you help? We want to offer something safe for local kids in this unusual year. If you can help with the event, contact us as soon as possible by emailing or calling the church office (office@fpccs.org or 570-586-6306). Thanks! **Tell Your Friends!**

Christian Education for children, youth and adults continues virtually in spite of virus.

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 fpccs.org

grace.blogspot.com for you to enjoy whenever fits best in your schedule.

- **We Believe:** youth grade 6 and up can visit fpccs-way-believe.blogspot.com for a weekly post featuring a Bible passage, reflection, and questions to ponder.

For adults, you will find:

- Rev. Carter leading a **Weekly Bible study on Wednesdays**, 6:15-7:15 pm on Zoom. Each week, he leads an discussion of the text for the upcoming sermon. The Bible study concludes October 28.
- Just in time for the election: Rev. Dr. Brent Eelman will lead a Zoom-based class on **Civility: A Christian Discipline**. It will meet the next two Wednesdays (October 28, November 4) at 7:15 p.m. Here is Brent's description: *Has our society become uncivil? Have we become so polarized that discourse over political, social, economic, and scientific issues quickly become shouting matches and filled with ad hominem attacks? This 3-session discussion will examine the roots of our incivility and ways that the church and its memberships can be advocates for civil discourse and debate.*

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

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET – 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.

Save the Date: We welcome the Rev. Dr. Joanne Weiss for a talk on **Managing Stress and Cultivating Resilience Through Covid-19**. She will speak in our sanctuary after worship on **Sunday, November 8**. The presentation will be live-streamed on YouTube and recorded for future viewing.

This Week at a Glance

Today

10:00AM * Morning Worship Sanctuary
Ordination and Installation of new Elders and Deacons

3:00PM * Piano Recital Sanctuary

Monday, October 26

Tuesday, October 27 * Deacons Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, October 28

6:15-7:15PM **(Z)** Rev. Carter will conclude an exploration of the text for the upcoming sermon. **ZOOM**

7:15 **(Z)** Rev. Dr. Brent Eelman leads a class on Civility: A Christian Discipline. **ZOOM**

Thursday, October 29

7:00 PM

Friday, October 30

9:30 AM * Immerse Study Group - Poets Room 206

Saturday, October 31

2:00 PM **Trunk or Treat!** Upper Parking Lot

Sunday, November 1

10:00AM TIME CHANGE . . . TURN YOUR CLOCK BACK!
* Worship, including communion, reception of new members Sanctuary

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.

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?



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