

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
9th Sunday after Pentecost

July 25, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Eternal God, protector of all who put their trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Fill us with your mercy and your grace, that, with you to rule and guide, we may so use the good things of this present life that we do not neglect those of eternal worth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Call to Worship

Your creation gives thanks to you, O God.

And we, your faithful, bless you.

We shall speak of the glory of your realm and tell of your power.

***We shall let all people know your mighty deeds
and glorious splendor.***

* Hymn 1 “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!”

1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

2 Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

3 Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in power, in love and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

***God, you uphold those who are falling
and raise up all who are bowed down.***

Therefore we confess our sins—

both things we have done and things we have left undone—

in every confidence that you will open your hands to us

in an embrace of forgiveness and love.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

* Response 581 “Gloria Patri”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Psalm 145

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.
One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness. They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you. They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power, to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations.

The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing. The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desire of all who fear him; he also hears their cry, and saves them. The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.

Second Lesson: John 6:1-14

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

A Moment with Our Children

Third Lesson: Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church, and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Sermon: "One Pastor's Prayer"

Rev. Thyren

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 353 "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

1 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.

Refrain: On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

2 When darkness seems to hide his face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. **(Refrain)**

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. **(Refrain)**

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. **(Refrain)**

* 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.**

Offering

Offertory

Prayers of the People and 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.**

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 726

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

1 “Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known; will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

2 “Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”

3 “Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”

4 “Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”

5 Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

* Those who are able shall stand.

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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Guest Preacher	Rev. James E. Thyren
Coordinator of Children And Youth Ministries	Jana Schillinger
Liturgist	Connie Weiss
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Usher	Jeanne DeVirgilis

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Church Family Announcements

Thank you to Jim Thyren for leading us in worship for the month of July!

Thank you for joining us for Worship. We worship every Sunday in two ways!

- **Have you had your vaccines?** [Make a reservation with our office](#) (570-586-6306) and join us in person at 10:00 a.m.
- **Tune in online** for our weekly service, which is broadcast live on [our video page on YouTube](#) and archived for later viewing on the same site.

Worship is Getting "Closer to Normal"

At the last session meeting, Session revised our "In-Person" Welcome to include all who have been fully vaccinated, **all children who attend school (or who were before the school year ended) and all children whose parents have been fully vaccinated.** Mask-wearing and temperature checks will continue to take place until further notice.

- You may sit wherever you wish.
- You are welcome, and invited, to sing . . . *while wearing your mask.*
- Reservations continue to be requested. However, we do have more flexibility now. If you forget to reserve a spot, you may still attend.

As we are returning to more regular services and attendance at church, please consider honoring loved ones, celebrations and family events with a special floral arrangement to mark the occasion. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Combined Session/Deacon meeting scheduled.

The Summer meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit will be held on **Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.** This is our yearly combined meeting with the Board of Deacons and will be held in Fellowship Hall. Following the completion of the combined meeting, each board will gather separately for their respective business meeting.

Summer Office Hours: From now until the end of August, church office hours will be Monday through Friday, 9AM to 4PM, with lunch break at noon. Every effort will be made to have the office staffed each day, but if you need to speak face-to-face with a member of the staff, please call ahead (570-586-6306).

2020 Pastoral Sabbatical – in 2021! Rev. Bill is now on sabbatical, which was deferred a year by the pandemic. He is "off the clock" until the end of August. Some of our best local preachers and caregivers will be covering for him, as he researches and writes a book titled *Thriving on a Riff: Jazz and the Spiritual Life*.

For any pastoral needs during the sabbatical, contact the church office (570-586-6306).

Help Rev. Carter reduce his library! Many books have been spread out in the Narthex that are free for the taking. Come when the church is open (M-F; 9am-4pm). No books will be reserved in advance or mailed.

The Mission and Justice Committee offers 2 opportunities to serve.

On the Saturday mornings of **August 28th and September 25th**, our church will be preparing and serving a large community meal and filling/distributing bags of food at Hickory Street Presbyterian Church in Scranton. Since Hickory Street began this ministry to combat hunger in the local community, they have seen demand for the meals increase seven-fold and requests for food bags increase almost four-fold.

For August 28, we will prepare and serve around 130 meals and distribute around 40 bags of food. Volunteers are needed to:

- prepare in their own homes, in advance, the main entrée (10 people);
- prepare, as above, an easy-to-serve dessert (10 people);
- shop, collect food, financial support;
- (on August 28) additional on-site food prep, cooking, plating meals, filling food bags, delivering to both dine-in and drive-up guests, and clean-up (12 people);

To volunteer, or for more information, contact Alan Baker at abaker2@verizon.net or speak with Jack and Diane Scheuer, Melba Fialko, or Ginny O'Brien. Look for sign-up and information sheets to be posted in the church foyer.

The work on September 25th will be part of our larger annual "Worship through Service" weekend.

General Assembly Commissioners for 2022

Lackawanna Presbytery is seeking applicants for one Teaching Elder Commissioner, one Ruling Elder Commissioner, and one Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 2022. We seek faithful Presbyterians who wish to contribute to the building of God's kingdom by participating in our denomination's highest council.

The General Assembly meets biennially in even-numbered years and consists of commissioners and advisory delegates elected by each of its presbyteries. The GA acts on hundreds of items of business received through reports and recommendations of various assembly entities, and through overtures from synods and presbyteries. Because of the global pandemic, the 2020 Assembly was accomplished virtually via Zoom. In 2022, the Assembly will be a blend of in-person committee meetings held in Louisville and online plenary meetings convened via Zoom. Specific time commitments are described here: https://mcusercontent.com/753e5e0043f7e36925f912f39/files/8f09da9d-fd17-e668-79d7-3fd821d43d80/Expectations_for_GA_2022.pdf

You may nominate yourself or recommend application to an individual whom you believe to be a qualified candidate. That person may only need a word of encouragement to apply. As Presbyterians, we believe that any one person might be the instrument through whom God will work at a particular time. In any case, please be prayerfully open to how the Spirit might be guiding you. **Applications are due in the Presbytery office by August 15, 2021.**



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 left) 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?