

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REV. DEREK FORBES & REV. MEG VAIL

APRIL 25TH, 2021

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Meg

INTROIT

Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land

Westminster Bell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapt. Acts 2:42-46)

Julia Olson

One: The early church devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer.

Many: The people were filled with awe at the wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

One: The believers had everything in common;

Many: They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

One: Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts;

Many: They broke bread in their homes, and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

One: Led by the Spirit, let us gather to worship God with glad and sincere hearts, devoting ourselves to the ministries to which God has called our church.

OPENING HYMN #410

"God is Calling through the Whisper"

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Pastor Derek

Throughout history, God has called and equipped the Church to proclaim the Word, to serve all people, to foster peace and the presence of compassion, and to listen to the voices from the margins. As we open ourselves to the Spirit's presence, let us examine our hearts and our minds, telling the truth about our sin and shortcomings to our God, who, like a shepherd, will gather and guide us anew in the ways of Christ.

Merciful God, like our ancestors in faith, we desire to bring the good news of your kingdom to the ends of the earth. Forgive us when we are tempted to ignore the Spirit's leading. Forgive us when we are tempted to look aside while the good news of grace and redemption is brought to us from unexpected places and voices. Inspire us anew with your present Word and Spirit, which speak to us now and in this moment, guiding your Church with imagination and love.

Time for Silent Personal Confession

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as God is, so are we in the world. We love because God first loved us. Friends, believe the good news

of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS #582 “Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines On Me”

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 8:26-40 (NRSV)

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”(This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Pastor Derek

ANTHEM

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Westminster Bell Choir

SERMON

Pastor Meg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

WORSHIP IN SONG #757

“Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Derek

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WORSHIP WITH OUR GIVING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Julia Olson

Through the grace of God and the bounty of this church, we have the ability to share our gifts so that all may have what they need to live. We thank God for the opportunity to truly be in fellowship with one another and with the world through our offerings today. Come, let us offer our gifts to God with gratitude and praise.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, receive our offerings this day, our generous response to the generous movement of your Spirit in our lives and in our ministry. As we dedicate our offerings to you, so too, do we dedicate ourselves anew to spreading the good news with our hands, feet, lips, and intellect. As we seek your kingdom, we ask that your will be our will for creation, lifting our voices as we together sing your praise.

SENDING OUT INTO THE WORLD

WORSHIP IN SONG #697

“Take My Life”

BENEDICTION

WORSHIP IN SONG

“Go Now in Peace”

POSTLUDE

Ritmo Festivo

Westminster Bell Choir

Announcements:

- Drive-through communion will be next Sunday, **May 2** from 11-11:30am.
- In-person services will be held on **May 9, 23 and 30** at 9am and 11am in Bruner Hall. Chairs will be spaced, masks are required. We will not have coffee or snacks.
- Pam is now back in the office from 9am to 1:30pm each day, with the exception of April 30.
- If you have any need, you may call Pastor Derek on his mobile phone: 435-881-8535. We have many people in the church who have offered to help others in any way that is necessary.

| Weekly Financial Update through 4/24/21 | |
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| Week of | Weekly Contribution Needed: \$6,007 |
| 3/28 | \$4,540 |
| 4/4 | \$7,880 |
| 4/11 | \$3,516 |
| 4/18 | \$3,994 |
| Current Contributions for 2021: | \$67,394 |
| Current Expenditures for 2021: | \$75,847 |
| Operating Budget for 2021: | \$312,374 |
| <p>Do you know that you can contribute via check, cash, direct deposit, Venmo, Billpay through your bank, or RMDs through your retirement account? Your offerings support the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church.</p> | |