

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
2nd Sunday after Pentecost

June 6, 2021

10:00 a.m.

O God, you have assured the human family of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Savior. Deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in him, 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

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

arr. Henry Balcombe

Call to Worship

Come! The feast has been prepared!

Our God, who has loved us throughout the ages, has invited us!

Rejoice! We have been embraced!

Our God, whose mighty hand and outstretched arm opened new paths in the darkness, now enfolds us with love.

Let us celebrate and give thanks.

***For we gather in the name of God,
who has sustained us in all generations. Amen.***

Hymn 619

“Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven”

1 Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days!

2 Praise God for the grace and favor shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing our Maker's faithfulness!

3 Like a loving parent caring, God knows well our feeble frame,
gladly all our burdens bearing, still to countless years the same.
Alleluia! Alleluia! All within me, praise God's name!

4 Angels, teach us adoration; you behold God face to face.
Sun and moon and all creation, dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of tender care, you have fed and defended us, blessing us with abundant fruitfulness. Yet we live as though we were totally self-sufficient, leaning on our own understanding, rather than trusting you with our whole heart.

Forgive us and show us your mercy in Christ Jesus. Empower us to live by your Spirit in confident assurance of your will for our lives, your provisions most bountiful, and your glory our greatest joy. Amen.

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 81:1, 10-16

Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob. I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.
"But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me. So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels. O that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways! Then I would quickly subdue their enemies, and turn my hand against their foes. Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him, and their doom would last forever. I would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."

Second Lesson: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 14:1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Sermon: "Come to the Table"

Rev. Samford

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn 529

“Draw Us In the Spirit’s Tether”

1 Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in your name
two or three are met together, you are in the midst of them.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Here we touch your garment's hem.

2 As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the giver break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia! so now bind our friendship up.

3 All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of you,
that by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true.

Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve with faith anew.

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

“O Word of God Incarnate”

arr. Gerald Krapf

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

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 757

“Today We 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

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

arr. Gerald Krapf

The flowers are given to the glory of God by Jack and Diane Scheuer in loving memory of
Jack's parents, Betty and John Schuer.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Guest Preacher	Rev. William Samford
Coordinator of Children And Youth Ministries	Jana Schillinger
Liturgist	Grant Taylor
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck

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Church Family Announcements

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"

- The blue tape has been removed from the sanctuary; you can sit wherever you wish.
- The hymnals have been returned to the pews! You are welcome, and invited, to sing . . . *while wearing your mask.*
- Please continue to make reservations. We do have more flexibility now. If you forget to reserve a spot, you may still attend.
- We will continue to wear masks until further notice.

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.

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).

Scheduled meetings this week:

- June 7 11:00 a.m. – Friends of Naomi – Fellowship Hall
 7:00 p.m. – Mission & Justice – Room 206
- June 8 10:00 a.m. – MBK Quilters – Fellowship Hall
 7:00 p.m. – Session – Room 206
- June 12 9:00 a.m. – Highway Clean-up, Clarks Summit UMC Parking Lot

Looking ahead:

- June 22 10:00 a.m. – MBK Quilters – Fellowship Hall
 7:00 p.m. – Deacons – Room 206

Help Rev. Carter reduce his library! While Rev. Carter is away, he invites you to help him reduce the size of his library! There are two boxes of books in the narthex that you are welcome to go through and take home any books that you would like to have. They are free! All are welcome to come in person to select their choices during the hours that the church is open (M-F; 9am-4 pm). No books will be reserved in advance or mailed.

CAMP LACKAWANNA INFORMATION

Can YOU Help? The Camp Lackawanna summer season will begin in 2 ½ weeks. **Many cabins at camp need a fresh coat of paint** before then. If you have any available time to help the Camp, please contact Mykela Bricka (camplackawanna.director@gmail.com or 570-550-2391). She will be happy to have your help.

Summer Camp 2021 Registration is open! Head on over to camp.lackawanna.org to see what programs are being offered this summer and to register your children for camp! Family Camp registration is also open! **Our church offers scholarships for all young people who want to go. Check with Jana Schillinger for details.**

Camp Lackawanna Summer Schedule

DATES	CAMP	AGE GROUP
June 24-27	Family Camp	All Ages
June 28-30	Mini Camp	Ages 6-10
July 4-10	Wet n' Wild	Ages 7-16
July 11-17	Music, Arts and Drama	Ages 7-16
July 11-24	JH/SR 2-week	Completed grades 6-11
July 18-24	Adventure Camp	Completed grades 6-10
July 25-31	Night Owls	Completed grades 3-10
August 1-7	Camp Olympics	Ages 7-16

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

OUR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TAKES PLACE JULY 19-23 from 9 a.m. to noon for children age 4 through grade 5. The theme is "Come to the Table". More details will follow very soon.