

# First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day  
7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 11, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with Joy, and live according to it, that we may grow in faith and hope and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

## A Memorial Service for John the Baptist

### ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude

“This is my Father's World”

arr. Austin Lovelace

Call to Worship

If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord;

**So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.**

The eternal God is your dwelling place,

**And underneath are the everlasting arms.**

Let us worship God!

\* Hymn 687

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

1 Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

2 Beneath the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all our years away;  
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

6 Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.

\* Call to Confession

\* Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, you see us as we are, and know our inmost thoughts.**

**We confess that we are unworthy of your gracious care.**

**We forget that all life comes from you and that to you all life returns.**

**We have not always sought or done your will.**

**We have not lived as your grateful children, nor loved as Christ loved us.**

**Lord, in your mercy, forgive us, heal us, and make us whole.**

***Set us free from our sin, and restore to us the joy of your salvation,  
now and forever.***

- \* Silent Confession
- \* Assurance of Pardon
- \* 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 24:1-6

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who dwell in it; for he has founded it upon the seas, and established it on the rivers. Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully. They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation. Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

A Moment with Our Children

Second Lesson: Mark 6:14-29

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb."

Sermon: "The Power of Words"

Rev. Thyren

## RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### \* Hymn 824 "There Is a Place of Quiet Rest"

1 There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God,  
a place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.

**Refrain: O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,  
hold us, who wait before thee, near to the heart of God.**

2 There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God,  
a place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God. (Refrain)

3 There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God,  
a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God. (Refrain)

### \* Affirmation of Faith from *A Brief Statement of Faith*, 1-5, 77-80

**In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.  
With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Offering

Offertory

"We Sing the Mighty Power of God"

arr. Lamb

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 326 "For All the Saints"

1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might; thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 O blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle; they in glory shine;  
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!

4 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!

5 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia! Alleluia!

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

arr. Michael Helman

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\* 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	Jack Pittman
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Bell Choir Director	Richard Cochrane
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Usher	Jeanne DeVirgilis

### **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"**

At the last session meeting, Session revised our "In-Person" Welcome to include **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.

**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.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS ONLY 8 DAYS AWAY!

**JULY 19-23 from 9am to Noon**

**REGISTER NOW at [myvbs.org/fpccs](http://myvbs.org/fpccs)**



**Who is welcome at God's table? YOU are!**

You're invited to a week of fun and faith as we hear Bible stories of hospitality and welcome. With creative crafts, amazing songs, fun games, and so much more, it's an adventure you won't want to miss. Children age 4 to completed grade 5 can register at

**[myvbs.org/fpccs](http://myvbs.org/fpccs)...and be sure to invite a friend!**

**Want to help?** We welcome church members to be adult volunteers. Contact Jana at [fpccs.vbs@gmail.com](mailto:fpccs.vbs@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Upcoming meetings**

**Monday, July 12 @ 10:30 a.m.** – Friends of Naomi Support Group

**Tuesday, July 13 @ 10:00 a.m.** – MBK Quilts – Fellowship All

### **Looking ahead:**

**Monday through Friday, July 19-23, 9 a.m. to Noon – [Vacation Bible School](#)**

### **Combined Session/Deacon meeting is 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, session members will adjourn to the Session Room. No food will be served this year.

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### **The Mission and Justice Committee offers 2 opportunities to serve.**

On the Saturday mornings of **August 28<sup>th</sup> and September 25<sup>th</sup>**, 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](mailto: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 25<sup>th</sup> will be part of our larger annual "Worship through Service" weekend.

**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).

### **CAMP LACKAWANNA INFORMATION**

**There are still spots open for Summer Camp 2021.** Head on over to [camp.lackawanna.org](http://camp.lackawanna.org) to see what programs are being offered this summer and to register your children for camp! **Our church offers scholarships** for all young people who want to go. Check with Jana Schillinger for details.

### **Camp Lackawanna Summer Schedule**

<b>DATES</b>	<b>CAMP</b>	<b>AGE GROUP</b>
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

**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).



#### **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](http://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?

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