

# First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day  
11th Sunday after Pentecost

August 8, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Grant us, O Lord, the grace always to do and think what accords with your purpose; that we, who cannot exist without you, may be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ Our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

Words of Welcome

Prelude

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

arr. John A. Behnke

Call to Worship

Today is a new day!

***We come with the past behind us and the future open.***

***We come to celebrate the new life Christ brings.***

This is the day that the Lord has made.

***Let us rejoice and be glad in it!***

\* 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

***Almighty God, you have given us all you have promised and more,  
so that we have been blessed beyond measure.***

***Yet, there are times when we have been ungrateful;***

***we have complained that we have not been treated fairly,***

***even though you have fulfilled your every promise and supplied our every need.***

***Forgive us for comparing ourselves with others;***

***strengthen us by your Spirit to cherish the gifts you have given us,  
to the honor of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. 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 145:1-10

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.

Second Lesson: Jonah 3:10-4:11

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

A Time with Children

Ms. Schillinger

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 20:1-16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is

right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Sermon: "Too Much Generosity?"

Rev. Bill Sanford

### **RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

\* Hymn 435 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.  
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.  
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

2 For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.  
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,  
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

\* 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

"Wonderful Words of Life"

arr. Marianne Kim

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 649

“Amazing Grace”

1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

“Postlude on ‘Hymn to Joy’”

arr. Jason D. Payne

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\* Those who are able shall stand.

**The flowers** this morning have been given by Diane and Jack Scheuer to the Glory of God in loving memory of Diane's parents, Helen B. Carnahan and Joseph K. Carnahan.

**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

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

**First Presbyterian Church  
300 School Street  
Clarks Summit, PA 18411  
570/586-6306  
www.fpccs.org**

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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"**

At the last session meeting, Session revised our "In-Person" Welcome to include all who have been fully vaccinated, **all children who attend school 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.

**Coffee hour has returned.** Following worship, please join us downstairs for light refreshments and fellowship, as you feel comfortable.

**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.

**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).

**August is here!** And with that comes the planning of fall programs. Note upcoming meeting schedules. (All meetings are in person at church unless otherwise noted.)

My Brother's Keeper Quilts - August 10 and 24, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Mission and Justice - August 23, 7 p.m. - Room 206

Deacons - August 24, 7 p.m. - Room 206

Worship, Music, Arts - August 26, 5:30 p.m. - Room 206

Hickory Street Meals Project - August 28 - Hickory Street Presbyterian Church (see below)

### **August 29, A Hymn Sing and Picnic are planned!**

Are there hymns that you've been missing? Or some favorite ones you'd really love to sing? Sunday, August 29 is YOUR DAY! We will have a HYMN SING in the sanctuary which will play a large part in our morning worship. Please contact the [church office](#) by August 15 to suggest the name of your favorite hymn! *And after the Hymn Sing . . .*

### **It's Parking Lot Picnic Time!**

That's right. I've heard *rumors* of burgers and 'dogs, and other picnic fare. Please come to enjoy the food and, more importantly, the friends. (*Care will be taken regarding food handling.*) **So clear your calendar for August 29** and plan to join your church family for a long-overdue reunion!

**2020 Pastoral Sabbatical – in 2021!** Rev. Bill is now on sabbatical, which was deferred a year by the pandemic. He will return at 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).

# Shoppers Wanted!

Update from the Mission and Justice Committee on the Hickory Street Project.

Thank you to the many who have already signed up to serve, cook the entrée, or make desserts for our upcoming Community Meal at Hickory Street Presbyterian Church on August 28th. But we are still lacking lots of food pantry items as we prepare to hand out bags of groceries. We need to be prepared to distribute as many as 40 such bags...and then to do the same a month later on September 24th. Please find below a list of items in a typical bag. If you can bring any of these items to church, please place them in the big box in the foyer. You can also support this project financially and we will find someone else to do the shopping. Mark cash or checks to be directed to the "Hickory Street Meals."

## SHOPPING LIST

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| ___ 1 box of Cereal                         | ___ 1 box of Pasta         |
| ___ 1 can or plastic jar of Spaghetti Sauce | ___ 1 bag of Candy         |
| ___ 1 box of Mac n Cheese                   | ___ 1-2 cans of Vegetables |
| ___ 1 can of Fruit                          | ___ 1 can of Tuna          |
| ___ 1 4-pack of Jello Pudding cups          | ___ 1 box Pop Tarts        |
| ___ 1 plastic jar of Peanut Butter          | ___ 1 plastic jar of Jelly |

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, and Ginny O'Brien. Sign-up and information sheets are located on the table in the church foyer.

*"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." (Matthew 25:35)*

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## 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](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 [fpcs.org](http://fpcs.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?