

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 15, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts. Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that all people may know the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Call to Worship

Let us rejoice, for morning has dawned.

A new day has been born, and we are newly alive to enjoy it.

We know the beauty of God's creation and the wonder of the human family.

We remember those whose love shaped our life.

We gather this morning to worship God, to share prayers and praise,
to pledge ourselves to God's work in the world.

**May God bless us, so that what we do in this time together may be honest,
sacred, and filled with hope and joy.**

* Hymn 645

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

1 Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of power,
the God of love, the God of our salvation. With healing balm my soul is filled,
and every faithless murmur stilled: to God all praise and glory!

2 What God's almighty power has made God's gracious mercy keepeth;
by morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.

Within the kingdom of God's might, lo! all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glory!

3 The Lord is never far away, but, through all grief distressing,
an ever-present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing,

as with a mother's tender hand God gently leads the chosen band: to God all praise and glory!

4 Thus all my toilsome way along I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.

Be joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body, take your part: to God all praise and glory!

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

**Caring and compassionate Creator, we enter this place set apart for your worship,
knowing that we have failed to see you in other places.**

We have ignored your beauty around us, in earth and sky, in people who surround us.

We have often chosen to live more by our fears than by our faith,

to be weighed down by what we do not have, rather than rejoicing in your gifts to us.

In these moments together, draw us so close

that we cannot help but know every day that you are with us wherever we go.

Enlarge our capacity to care, so we may see you in all whom we meet.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

- * 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

Psalter: Psalm 150

Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!
Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!
Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!
Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!
Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Second Lesson: I Chronicles 16:23-34

Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his place. Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come before him. Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth. The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, “The Lord is king!” Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

A Time with Children

Jana Schillinger

Third Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory.

Sermon: “Praise the Lord!”

Rev. Samford

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 37 "Let All Things Now Living"

1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise; who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night: till shadows have vanished,
all fearfulness banished, as forward we travel from light into light.

2 By law God enforces, the stars in their courses,
the sun in its orbit obediently shine; the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration, a song let us raise, till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving: to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

* 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

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

arr. Cochrane

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 634 "To God Be the Glory"

1 To God be the glory; great things he has done! So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give him the glory: great things he has done!

2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

(Refrain)

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

* Those who are able shall stand.

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The flowers have been given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Erwin and Dorothy Eckstein by their daughter, Bonnie Plantholt.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher	Rev. William Samford
Coordinator of Children And Youth Ministries	Jana Schillinger
Liturgist	Leelah Farrell
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Director of Bell Choir	Richard Cochrane
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"

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.)

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

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

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/bottle of Jelly |

To volunteer, or for more information, contact Alan Baker at 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)

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.**