

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 22, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Almighty God, you have taught us that all our deeds without love are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the very bond of peace and of all goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 "Morning Has Broken" arr. Douglas Wagner

Call to Worship

God is the source of wisdom,
the fount of life eternal.

Let us listen for the wisdom of God and seek the One whose words shape the world.

Come, let us worship God!

* Hymn 275 "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

1 A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.
Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe.
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

2 Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he.
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

3 And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him.
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure. One little word shall fell him.

4 That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also.
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

Lord, thank You for the gift of Your Word. You are a God who wants to be known and heard. You have spoken and continue to speak to humanity through Jesus, Your Incarnate Word, and Scripture, Your written Word. Thank You, Lord, forgive us for failing to listen to Your Word. Sometimes when You speak to us, we question whether we heard You correctly. At other times, we know You have spoken but we choose not to listen. Many times, we are too distracted with the rest of our lives to hear You speaking at all. Forgive us, Lord, help us trust and obey Your Word. Give us clarity and wisdom to recognize Your voice. Give us

confidence and courage to follow You. Help us. We believe, Lord, but help our unbelief. In the Name of Jesus Christ, 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 84:1-12

¹How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

²My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

³Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

⁴Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. *Selah*

⁵Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

⁶As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.

⁷They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

⁸O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! *Selah*

⁹Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.

¹⁰For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper
in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.

¹¹For the LORD God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor.

No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly.

¹²O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

Second Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Gospel Reading: John 6:56-69

"Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Sermon: "What would it take?"

Dr. Miller-Scandle

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 65 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.

* 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

"Tallis Canon"

arr. Douglas Wagner

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 366

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

1 Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

2 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

4 Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude

“Toccata in E Minor”

Pachelbel

* Those who are able shall stand.

The flowers have been given by Jack and Diane Scheuer to the Glory of God and in loving memory of their daughter, Ella Scheuer.

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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Dr. Tabbi Miller-Scandle, Preacher; Jana Schillinger, Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries; David Naeher, Liturgist; Frank Jones, Director of Music; Kay Ten Eyck, Organist; Connie Weiss and Nathaniel Worrell, Bells.

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

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, as well as all children whose parents have been fully vaccinated.**

- Mask-wearing and temperature checks will continue to occur 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.

2020 Pastoral Sabbatical – in 2021! Rev. Bill's sabbatical is wrapping up. He will return at the end of August. Some of our best local preachers and caregivers have covered for him, as he researched and wrote 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).

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 (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 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!

UPDATES on Hickory Street Project and Worship Through Service by the Mission and Justice Committee

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.

Worship through Service day is approaching.

Several projects have been selected and will be announced in the upcoming Presbyter.

In addition to food needed for the Hickory Street Project (see above), personal care items will be collected for donation to Safety Net.

Items needed by Safety Net include:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| diapers (all sizes) | baby powder | baby formula |
| toothbrushes, toothpaste | bar soap | shampoo, conditioner |
| men's and women's deodorant | men's and women's disposable razors | |
| shaving cream | facial tissue | toilet tissue |
| | dish soap | feminine hygiene products |
| | | liquid laundry detergent |



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 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?