



*Sunday Worship
January 17, 2021
Draw near to God
for God is waiting for you.*

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

God whispers to each of us: you are my beloved, created in love for love.

My spirit answers: Here I am, Lord. Speak to me anew.

God breathes on us the Holy Spirit, knitting many members into one body, the body of Christ.

Together we answer: Here we are Lord. Come, Holy Spirit.

God has yet more vision for the people. Who will work for God to extend God's kingdom into our hurting world?

Here we are Lord. Empower us for your work.

God calls the small, and helps them do great things. God calls the weak, and reveals their hidden gifts. God calls the rejected, and opens their eyes to their worth.

Here we are Lord, humble and waiting.

Then let us gather, old and young, small and great, to dream God's dreams, receive God's power, and do God's deeds.

Here we are Lord. Shine the light of your love on us. Kindle your Spirit within us. Work your redeeming will in us, that all the world may be one through the power of your love. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Open our ears, O God, that we might hear your Word speaking to us in this moment. Open our ears, O God, that we might listen for your voice calling to us through scripture. Open our ears, O God, that we might understand your promises to followers both old and young, ancient and modern. Open our hearts, O God, that we might enter into the love you offer us. Amen.

HYMN #299 You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

1. You servants of God, your Master proclaim, and publish abroad Christ's wonderful name.
The name all victorious of Jesus extol, whose kingdom is glorious, who rules over all.

2. Ascended on high, almighty to save, yet still he is nigh; his presence we have.
The great congregation his triumph shall sing, ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

3. "Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!" Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim, fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

4. Then let us adore and give him his right: all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
all honor and blessing, with angels above, and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!

CALL TO CONFESSION

We are foolish enough to think you do not know our hearts, hear our words, see the mistakes we make, and the pain we cause. But because you are not only holy and know, you are gracious and forgive. Hear us now, as we offer our lives and hearts to you.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, somewhere long ago, someone convinced us that we would not be good material for God to use in healing and helping ministries for this world. We don't really believe that we have anything worthwhile to offer. It is relatively easy for us to donate funds for missions and the good works of the church, but we do not see ourselves worthy of further involvement. Remind us of your forgiving love, when we stubbornly refuse to believe your claim on our lives. Open our eyes and spirits to see the gifts with which you have blessed us, and to commit those gifts to serving you by serving others. There are so many things that we can do. And everything starts with prayer. So, patient God, bear with us as we settle down to pray, asking for your wisdom in our lives. Give us courage and strength to accomplish any task that you set before us. And give us hearts of grateful love to acknowledge your presence in our lives, and live that presence with great joy. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF BLESSING AND ASSURANCE

*From the very beginning, God has blessed you and planted within your spirit the words "I can do all things through God who strengthens me." Do not fear the task God sets before you. Rejoice, for God is with you every moment and God's love washes over you always, healing and nourishing your life. Remember this truth and say with me: **Jesus died for me. Jesus forgives me. Jesus loves me. Jesus is good to me. Amen.***

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON John 1:43-51

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

HYMN #722 Lord, Speak to Me that I May Speak

1. Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of your tone.

As you have sought, so let me seek your erring children, lost and lone.

2. O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wandering and the wavering feet.

O feed me, Lord, that I may feed your hungering ones with manna sweet.

3. O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious truths which you impart.

And wing my words that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.

4. O fill me with your fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'er-flow

in kindling thought and glowing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

5. O use me, Lord, use even me, just as you will, and when, and where

until your blessed face I see, your rest, your joy, your glory share.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Samuel 3:1-20

3Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

¹¹Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever." ¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." ¹⁷Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him."

¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

SERMON Called to Proclaim

RECOGNITION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With hearts of praise, O Lord, we dedicate to you these gifts as tokens of our lives and work. Use them, as you use us, to the fulfilling of your purposes for creation, that we might give glory to you not only in the hearing, but in the doing of your word. In Jesus we pray. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION 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

HYMN #69 Here I Am, Lord

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

REFRAIN: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? REFRAIN

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? REFRAIN

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

The Lord knows you and loves you. Let God's light shine in the darkness so that others may see the good works and glorify God.

RESPONSE: This little light of mine.....I'm gonna let it shine.

Jesus has seen you, waiting for the call to ministry and mission. He calls you now to open your hearts to those around you; to people in need, to those who sorrow, to those who just need someone to talk with.

RESPONSE: This little light of mine.....I'm gonna let it shine.

Just as God called the boy Samuel, God is reaching out to you to be a witness to God's awesome love and power.

RESPONSE: This little light of mine.....I'm gonna let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

You won't hide it under a dark cover, will you?

RESPONSE: No, I'm gonna let it shine!

You won't extinguish it because you're afraid and feel unworthy, will you?

RESPONSE: No, I'm gonna let it shine!

Will you let God's light shine through your life?

RESPONSE: Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine!

Will you brave the deepest darkness with God's light in your life?

RESPONSE: All through the darkness, I'm gonna let it shine.

Then, beloved of God, go into God's world, aware of God's call in your life. Follow our Lord Jesus Christ who will lead you in paths of service and hope. Lean on the power of the Holy Spirit to give you courage and strength. May peace, joy and love flow through you to others, in God's name. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Sunday January 17, 2021 – ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY - Join us today for Sunday school class for all ages at 11:30am on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/127591875>. For one half hour our children will be hearing stories, singing songs, engaging in activities and games about God and God's teachings.

Study of Fellowship: Join us this Thursday evening January 21, 2021 at 7pm on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/127591875> Meeting ID: 127 591 875 or by phone: 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782.

Led by Su Fall.

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE: With the ushering in of the New Year, we remember 2020, such as it was, by our annual report. All reports are due to the church office by January 25. We may have been apart for much of the year, but the work of Jesus Christ at Forest Grove Church continued. Let's celebrate that in our review!

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION: January 31st is our annual meeting of the congregation to receive the annual reports, vote on the Ruling Elders and Deacons placed into nomination and the Pastor's terms of call. All members of the congregation are urged to join the meeting on Zoom, <https://zoom.us/j/127591875> Meeting ID: 127 591 875 or by phone: 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782, immediately after the worship service that day for this important meeting and to celebrate who we are together in God's service.

WILL MYERS ORDAINED JANUARY 10, 2021: Our former intern was ordained to serve as the designated pastor of the Frenchtown Presbyterian Church. His ordination service was held virtually, but when it is safe to do so, there will be an "Affirmation of Ordination" service that will be held in-person and all are invited to attend. Meanwhile, feel free to express your congratulations to Will. His new address is: 2 HealthQuest Blvd., Apt. B203, Flemington, NJ 08822.

COVID VACCINE: Bucks County residents can pre-register to receive the vaccine at this website: <https://buckscounty.org/government/healthservices/HealthDepartment/CoronavirusInfo/VaccineInfo>. Please note that currently registration is only for those in 1A, 1B and 1C. It also indicates who qualifies for each category.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING – 2021 Style



When: Saturday, January 30, 2021 at 1:00 PM

What: We are inviting everyone who can and would like to make a pot of soup to be donated to Care For Friends, the organization that provides food and friendship to seniors, kids and adults in the 5-county Philadelphia region.

Where: We will have a Zoom gathering: <https://zoom.us/j/127591875>.

How: You provide your own ingredients and the church will provide individual soup containers. These can be picked up on Monday and Tuesday before the event, January 25 and 26. Bags with ten containers (16 oz.) and lids will be available outside the church in a marked container. If you need more than 10 containers because you plan to make a big pot, take more than one bag. Feel free to make whatever type of soup you wish and however much you wish. If you need some soup recipes, call the church office and we have some easy recipes available. Bring your filled containers to the church on Sunday, January 31 between 1-2:00. ***It is very important to write on the lid of the container with permanent marker the date the soup was made and what type of soup. Individual ingredients are not necessary.

Example: 1/30/21 – Chicken Noodle They will be put into the church freezer and then taken to Care for Friends on Monday, February 1. If you don't have refrigerator or freezer space, please contact the church office and arrangements will be made to pick up your soup on Saturday after the event.

Need More Help: If you are unable to pick up your containers or if you can't drop off your soup, please contact the church office and someone will help do the traveling for you.

Why: Because even during this pandemic, we are called to provide for the hungry sharing the love of our Lord in this tangible way. Also, because we need each other and we can provide joy and fellowship for each other. So bring your loving heart and join the fun! The Parish Life Committee is planning to make a virtual party out of this by inviting the "party-animals" in our midst (you know who you are) to join a virtual soup soiree. Soup preparation will take place while we socialize with each other, swap recipes and just have fun!

Confirmation Class: Will be meeting Wednesday at 7:00 on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/127591875>

Christian Ed Mtg.: Tuesday January 19 at 10:30am, **Property Mtg.:** Tuesday January 19 at 7pm. Both meetings will be held on Zoom : <https://zoom.us/j/127591875>

In our thoughts and prayers: The Conner/Lang Family, Diane Dauer, Jim and Judy Ferguson, Aleena Lang, Natalie Pizza, Bill Wark, Nancy Yerkes