



Sunday Worship *August 22, 2021*

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come!

Come praise the eternal God!

Let all that is within us—body, emotions, mind, and will
praise God's holy name!

OPENING PRAYER

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

**We long to be where You are;
to stand in Your very presence,
and to behold You, face to face!**

**And so we have come to this place today;
we have gathered together to worship You—
to offer the praise which belongs to You alone.**

**Bless us as we worship You together,
and as we open our hearts and minds
to Your presence among us.**

**For You alone are God,
the One in whom we trust. Amen.**

HYMN #402 How Lovely, Lord (Psalm 84)

1. How lovely, Lord, how lovely is your abiding place, my soul is longing, fainting, to feast upon your grace. The sparrow finds a shelter, a place to build her nest; and so your temple calls us within its walls to rest.

2. In your blest courts to worship, O God, a single day is better than a thousand if I from you should stray. I'd rather keep the entrance and claim you as my Lord than revel in the riches the ways of sin afford.

3. A sun and shield forever are you, O Lord Most High; you shower us with blessings; no good will you deny. The saints, your grace receiving, from strength to strength shall go, and from their life shall rivers of blessing overflow.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Mighty One of Israel,
we walk in paths well trodden
by generations of fellow believers.
We love to claim you as our God
and to be known as your people.

We love to hear the great deeds of the saints
who went before us.
We love to count ourselves
in their mighty company.
Forgive our hesitancy
to build our own monuments
to your importance in our lives.
Forgive our reluctance
to put on our own armor of faith
as we face the powers of sin and death
in our own lives. Amen.

WORDS OF BLESSING AND ASSURANCE

*Hear these words from Christ: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So go forth in the power of the almighty, who forgives you and loves you. Let the water of baptism remind us of the good news that **Jesus died for me. Jesus forgives me. Jesus loves me. Jesus is good to me. Amen.***

**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. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 58:9b-14

^{58:9b} If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. ¹³ If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs; ¹⁴ then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

HYMN # 307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1. God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power; crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.
2. Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.
3. Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control; shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss they kingdom's goal, lest we miss they kingdom's goal.
4. Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore. Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 20:17-38

17. From Miletus he sent a message to Ephesus, asking the elders of the church to meet him. 18. When they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the entire time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, 19. serving the Lord with all humility and with tears, enduring the trials that came to me through the plots of the Jews. 20. I did not shrink from doing anything helpful, proclaiming the message to you and teaching you publicly and from house to house, 21. as I testified to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus. 22. And now, as a captive to the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, 23. except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and persecutions are waiting for me. 24. But I do not count my life of any value to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the good news of God’s grace.

25“And now I know that none of you, among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom, will ever see my face again. 26Therefore I declare to you this day that I am not responsible for the blood of any of you, 27for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. 28Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son. 29I know that after I have gone, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30Some even from your own group will come distorting the truth in order to entice the disciples to follow them. 31Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to warn everyone with tears. 32And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified. 33I coveted no one’s silver or gold or clothing. 34You know for yourselves that I worked with my own hands to support myself and my companions. 35In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

36When he had finished speaking, he knelt down with them all and prayed. 37There was much weeping among them all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, 38grieving especially because of what he had said, that they would not see him again. Then they brought him to the ship.

SERMON “We’re in it together”

Rev. Amy Ruhf-Brien

STATEMENT OF FAITH The Apostle’s 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 at 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, we thank you for our present abundance and for the many blessings you have bestowed upon this community. We thank you for our faith, for our knowledge of you, and for the assurance of your love. May all these gifts be a blessing to those in need. Amen.

SHARING 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 #765 May the God of Hope Go with Us

1. May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race. Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all; working for a word that's new, faithful when we Christ's call.

BENEDICTION

Remember you are God's beloved. The Holy Spirit lives in you. Christ's compassion shines forth in what you do. Live as those who know and have experienced God's goodness. Go now in peace.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: August 22, 2021

Due to the prevalence of the delta variant, masks are required for those unvaccinated and highly recommended for everyone else.

Pastor Su's Summer Vacation: Pastor Su will be away from August 2 – 29. While she is away, pastoral emergencies will be handled by our deacons and elders. If you have a need, please contact Maggie Rash or Missi Dell'Orefice. Pulpit supply will be provided by some of our favorites. It is always wonderful to hear different voices speaking God's truth from the pulpit. Please pray for Pastor Su that she will enjoy refreshment and renewal while she is away.

Youth Group parents meeting: I will be hosting a parents meeting on August 31st, 2021 @ 7pm. We will meet at Jolie Hyndman's home at 102 Pine Lane, Newtown, PA 18940 (for GPS). There is a red sign for Hope Farm at the end of the driveway. You go over a small bridge, stay to the left at the fork, and pass a house and two garages. Go thru the woods, all the way to the end. It's a 1/2 mile from the road. It is the stone house on the right. Please rsvp to Jolie at 267-471-2761 and feel free to call her if you have any questions. Upcoming events for the calendar year will be the topic in a casual environment. I look forward to meeting everyone. Jason Gordon, Director of Youth Ministry at Forest Grove.

Family and Friends join us for a Picnic celebration on **September 11th at 6:00pm at the Ruth farm.** We will have a picnic with hotdogs and sides as well as toast marshmallows for s'mores as we celebrate us all back together in a Kirkwood Camp style. There will be games and a sing-a-long. Bring a lawn chair and your favorite camping memories! Please call the church office to sign up or stop by the church.

Wednesday noontime lunch: No lunch in the last two weeks of August; we'll gather again in September. Bring your lunch and your good company as we share fellowship together at noon.

BLOOD DRIVE SEPT 11TH 8AM to 1PM in Fellowship Hall. Due to ongoing, but thankfully lessening Covid concerns, there will be safety precautions and screening of donors. The Red Cross strongly encourages pre-scheduled appointments instead of walk-ins. **Schedule your appointment today**, please call or email Dana Daniels at 215 450 0705, dldpineville@verizon.net. Thank you!

Fall Focus: Our next newsletter will be emailed/mailed the beginning of September. Any articles, updates and pictures that you would like included, please have to Susan in the office no later than August 24th.

Calendar:

August 29–10AM- Sunday services in church and on Zoom.

<https://zoom.us/j/127591875> Meeting ID: 127 591 875 or by phone:
301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782.

Ryon Herin, Senior, Princeton Theological Seminary will be our Pulpit supply for the morning.

In our thoughts and prayers: The Conner/Lang Family, Diane Dauer, Aleena Lang, Natalie Pizza, Bill Wark, Raymond Tinari, Dick Wright, Gail Shaffer, The Cullerton Family, John Thiessen, Lori Tinari, Becky Schroeder, and Rebecca Stemplewicz