

St. James Presbyterian Church
October 11, 2020
19th Sunday after Pentecost
Outdoor Worship

GATHERING

WORDS OF WELCOME
INTROIT

GOD GATHERS US IN

based on Psalm 106

One: We gather to celebrate and praise the Lord!

All: *God is good, and his love never fails.*

One: No one can praise God enough for all the mighty things God has done.

All: *The Lord blesses those who are honest and fair in everything they do.*

One: Remember us, O Lord, when you show kindness by saving your people.

All: *May we celebrate with pride because we belong to you.*

Let us give thanks and worship God.

OPENING PRAYER

All: *Holy God, you deserve the best we have to offer -- the devotion of our hearts, the place of honor in our priorities, and the first fruits of our labors. We enter this time of worship, thankful that you are in our midst, speaking to us your message of love and mercy, conviction and challenge. As we welcome your Spirit, we abandon control and open ourselves in faith. May we trust in your purposes and plans, rather than our own. Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, we pray that our worship will be acceptable in your sight. In Christ's name; Amen.*

HYMN # 150

Come Christians, Join to Sing

Come, Christians, join to sing; Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice,

Before His throne rejoice;

Praise is His gracious choice; Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high; Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!

He is our guide and friend;

To us He'll condescend;

His love shall never end; Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again; Alleluia! Amen!

Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore

His goodness we'll adore,

Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: . . . In the confidence that God hears us when we pray, we now confess our sin:

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

All: *Merciful Savior, you invite us to be part of your family, to receive the gift of your salvation, to respond to your call to follow you. We confess that far too often we act like ungrateful guests. We allow other priorities to crowd you out. We make ourselves too busy to celebrate with you. We create other gods and give them our attention and loyalty. In our vain attempts to look "successful" we polish the veneer of our lives and ignore our deepest needs and longings, including our need and longing for you. Forgive us, we pray, and restore us to health and wholeness. Hear our personal confession in silence.*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: What amazing love is this, that God never cuts us off from his compassion and mercy! Hear and believe the good news:

All: *In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Glory to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end. Amen.*

HYMN OF RESPONSE #355 Hear the Good News of Salvation (verse 1)

*Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.
Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.
Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!
How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE *(from a social distance)*

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: *Heavenly Father, as we hear your word read and preached today, open our hearts and minds to your Spirit and your truth. Help us learn something new from words that may be familiar. Wherever you lead us, let us be willing to follow. Whatever it is you want to teach, let us be open to listening and obeying. Amen.*

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 32: 1-14

A MOMENT FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

MUSICAL MEDITATION

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 22: 1-14

SERMON "Enemies of Gratitude: Entitlement"
Elder Rosamond Presby

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

SONG

God the Creator
(has the same tune as "Morning Has Broken")

***God the Creator, you in love made me
Who once was nothing, but now have grown.
I bring the best of all my life offers;
For You I share whatever I own.***

***O Christ the Savior, you in love called me,
Who once was no one, lost and alone.
I pledge to go wherever you summon,
Making your will and purpose my own.***

***O God the spirit, you in love move me,
Who once was nowhere and felt unknown.
I know my need of you for companion;
All things can change when not on my own.***

***And with the people summoned together
To be the Church in which faith is sown.
I make my promise to live for Jesus
And let the world know all are his own.***

Words and Arrangement, Iona Community, 1989; CCLI # 1340218

JOYS AND CONCERNS

OFFERTORY

Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN # 432

Song of Hope (*sing through twice*)

***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 world that's new,
Faithful when we hear Christ's call.***

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

When God gathers us to worship, we share our joys and concerns with one another and commend them to God. Please pray for the people and churches whose names appear on this list, and add the joys and concerns that are shared during the service to theirs as you pray for others in the week to come.

The Kimmel Family

The Lange Family

Mt. Olivet Presbyterian Church (*Hancock, MD*)

Cliff Hanner and Family (*death of Linda on September 16, 2020*)

Carol Rudy and family (*death of Sam*)

Dick Geisel (*recovering at home*)

Wallace Grissinger

Jim & Joyce Masters

Janet & Lin Sanders

Seth Carter

Chance Stephens (*entering Naval Training*)

Kay B (*cancer*)

Pat Dudzinski (*Jane Michaliszyn's mom*)

Marilyn Cooker (*Liz Kimmel's sister –pancreatic cancer*)

Betty Brooks (*breast cancer*)

PNC Committee – *Tom Dardick, Steve Grubb, Deb Hanner, Karen Howenstine, Ginger Johns, Karen McLaughlin and Joyce Shirley*

All those who have passed away due to COVID-19 without their loved ones nearby and their families who are unable to be with them or each other during this difficult time

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU – I want to thank our St. James family for their prayers, calls and cards while Sam was sick and after his passing. We really appreciated it. Carol

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE - St. James is currently improving our social media usage in order to let everyone know all of the amazing things that happen at and through St. James! If you haven't yet, please follow us on Facebook and our newly created Instagram! (**St.James_Presby**)

We will be posting about everything that is happening around the church and this should allow you (as a member of St. James) to stay fairly well informed with your faith family! Other communication will still be sent out (emails, bulletins, announcements, etc.) but this will allow you to stay connected in another way without checking your email! Please follow us if you're able!

PNC UPDATE OCTOBER 5, 2020

Fall has officially arrived and we had our first “little bit chilly” outside service on October 4th, opening our worship with a beautiful introit of “Autumn Leaves”! The leaves are certainly beginning their transformation as we move into this season of change. St. James is facing changes of all kinds, just like the rest of the world. How will worship look next month? How will we praise God together in closer quarters? How can we keep each other safe and healthy while enjoying fellowship? All of this will require facing change, and the PNC is no exception. How can we find a full-time pastor while there are so many restrictions and distractions??! However, we *are* continuing our efforts to find a full-time pastor for our church family. But there are changes to the process because of our circumstances. As you might imagine, having a pastoral candidate travel for a visit is challenging right now. One candidate was interested in seeing our church home, but preferred not to travel by air at this point. We gave the candidate a “real-time tour” by taking a device to the church property, giving a full walk-around to show the outside features of the building (entrance, parking, pavilion, playground, labyrinth, front seating area) and surrounding neighborhood, the inside of the building spaces, and ended with a video chat in Holy Grounds coffee cafe! We did have the opportunity to meet a candidate in person. We hosted a meal at my home prepared by the PNC and were planning to eat outside, but a rainstorm moved us to the basement (more open space than the dining room) for the meal until we could go outside and walk around! We organized a dinner with another candidate that didn’t involve any gathering in person at all! We called the food delivery service “Grubhub” and had a meal delivered to the house from one of their favorite local restaurants, the PNC members prepared or ordered dinner at their homes, and we ate together on a ZOOM call! We have embraced some changes to the process and are moving forward. All of the issues that we are dealing with have slowed the process a bit as you might imagine. We are in communication with the COM at Presbytery to keep abreast of the processes that need to happen should we decide to move forward with a particular candidate. Obviously meeting with the COM will look different than it has in the past and we are learning how that might affect our timeline. The PNC wants to let you know that we are still very actively seeking a leader, even under somewhat challenging circumstances. Please keep us in your prayers as we try to discern who God is calling to lead us, and for the pastor who may be being called to lead! We especially ask for prayers for two of our PNC members that have faced some extremely difficult days; Deb as she and her family walk the path of losing dear Linda, and Tom as he and his family continue to heal from Covid-19. We also ask that you hold in prayer our new temporary pastor, Roz Presby and our outgoing Director of Youth Ministry and Communications, Theo Camara. We are so very grateful for Roz’s spiritual leadership and guidance while we continue our task and for Theo’s work in our midst. We wish them both well, and we will continue to pray for all of you, too!

Peace of mind and body to all,

Karen

Philippians 4:6-7

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

