

St. James Presbyterian Church
September 13, 2020
15th Sunday after Pentecost
Outdoor Worship

GATHERING

WORDS OF WELCOME

INTROIT

GOD GATHERS US IN

One: Wake up! The light of God is breaking through the darkness.

All: We bless the light, a sign of hope in times of trouble.

One: Do not fear! The love of Christ opens up a space of respite and peace for us.

All: We bless this place, a sanctuary of rest.

One: Delight in the gifts of the Spirit, who sets a table of welcome for all.

*All: Surely goodness and mercy have found us here,
in the house of our Lord, the God of abounding love.*

OPENING PRAYER

All: Gracious God, you have brought us together in this place today, and we thank you. We come to be fed, to be renewed, to seek understanding. Reveal yourself to us, challenge us, and help us grow in faith. We pray in Jesus' name, as we seek to be his faithful disciples. Amen..

HYMN # 488 The God of Abraham Praise

CALL TO CONFESSION

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

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

All: O God, we praise you and say we are grateful that you are our Savior, but our lives do not always reflect our gratitude. We fill our busy days with distractions, and we ignore your presence. Instead of true worship, we offer you empty words. We are not worthy of the many gifts you give us through your constant love. Have mercy on us. Help us respond more fully to your love and become more like your son, Jesus, our Lord. Hear our personal confession in silence.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: God loves us just the way we are, and loves us too much to let us stay like this. By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made whole. Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE #355 (vs. 1)

Hear the Good News of Salvation

Renville

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

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Make us hungry for your Word; may it nourish us today in the ways of eternal life. Through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 13: 8-14

A MOMENT FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

MUSICAL MEDITATION

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 12: 1-14

SERMON

“New Day, New Year, New Life”
Elder Rosamond Presby

RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD

CALL TO GIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS / PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

RESPONSE - HYMN # 507 “I Come with Joy” (verses 1-3)

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Let us pray. . .

WORDS OF THE INSTITUTION

SHARING THE SACRAMENT

CLOSING PRAYER (ending with The Lord’s Prayer)

HYMN # 507 “I Come with Joy” (verses 4 & 5)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Hymn No. 488 *The God of Abraham Praise*

[1] The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
The ancient of eternal days, the God of Love!
The Lord, the great I Am, by earth and heav'n confessed,
We bow before Your holy name, forever blest.

[2] Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will;
In prophet's word You spoke of old, and You speak still.
Established is Your law, and changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart, on sea or land.

[3] You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
Your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
We praise you, living God! We praise Your holy name;
The first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same.

Hymn No. 507 *I Come with Joy*

[1] I come with joy to meet my Lord,
Forgiven, loved, and free,
In awe and wonder to recall
His life laid down for me,
His life laid down for me.

[2] I come with Christians far and near
To find, as all are fed,
The new community of love
In Christ's communion bread,
In Christ's communion bread.

[3] As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
Each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
And strangers now are friends,
And strangers now are friends.

[4] And thus with joy we meet our Lord.
His presence, always near,
Is in such friendship better known:
We see and praise Him here,
We see and praise Him here.

[4] Together met, together bound
We'll go our different ways,
And as His people in the world,
We'll live and speak His praise,
We'll live and speak His praise.

(Words: Brian A. Wren 1977, CCLI # 71179)

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 Howenstine Family The Hughes Family

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

Carol Rudy and family (*death of Sam*)

Linda Hanner

Dick Geisel Wallace Grissinger

Jim & Joyce Masters Janet & Lin Sanders

Seth Carter

John Buchy (*Chris Winter's brother-in-law – hernia surgery*)

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

OFFERING - You may mail or drop off your offering to St. James Presbyterian Church at 1425 Orrs Bridge Rd. Mechanicsburg, PA 17050. You may also give using the Give Plus Mobile app or scan the QR code with your smartphone to begin the online giving process. A link to online giving can also be found on our church website at <https://stjames-presby.org/>. Please note that 2% of your online/app donation will go to processing fees and not to the church. Therefore, the church would prefer if you are able to have your bank send a check or mail your offering directly to the church.

NEW MISSION OPPORTUNITY FOR ST. JAMES - We have signed up for dropping off a "Dinner: for Carlisle CARES Shelter Monday 9/21. We are looking ST James members to sign up for a portions of the meal. The menu will be meatball subs and sides. We will need rolls, 2-3 side dishes, and two people to make enough meatballs in sauce for 15 people each. They serve about 30 men, women, and children a meal at the shelter. Meals are new at CARES due to concerns over The potential risks of COVID 19. Residents do not have to travel across town to another homeless agency if meals are contributed. St James "Be the Bridge" zoom group has contributed two meals recently. This time we would like your help! St James members can prepare their contributions at home and will need to drop them off at the church between 3 and 4 pm on 9/21. One volunteer will then deliver the meal to Carlisle for everyone. Please contact Carol McNulty carolmcnulty@comcast.net to volunteer a dinner item or for more information.

NEW STUDY IN WEDNESDAY SMALL GROUP - The Wednesday Night Small Group starts this Wednesday at 7 p.m. We will discuss I'm Still Here by Austin Channing Brown. This memoir takes a look at a Black woman's experience as a Christian and examines her interactions with American schools, professional spaces, and places of worship, providing insights on how to deal with microaggressions and blatant racism. If you are interested in joining the small group, we meet on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Please send Steve Grubb an e-mail at Stevengrubb@comcast.net to be added to the list for Zoom invitations. Please purchase a copy of the book at a local bookseller or on-line retailer like Amazon, Barnes and Noble or Christianbook.com. Please consider joining our group! The discussion is deep and the impact is real. Here are some comments from group members who participated in the Be the Bridge book study:

Bridges connect many things... including people. I did not know I needed to work on my bridge building until I read the book Be the Bridge by Latasha Morrison. It is an inspirational and informative look at racial injustice in our nation - past and present. This book has transformed my daily interaction with people of color in amazingly positive ways. But more than that, it challenges me, you and everyone to be the bridge builders for healing of the world and the glory of God.

-Sue Foster

Here is the Syllabus for the I'm Still Here study:

Week 1 (9/16): Introduction, Chapters 1, 2

Week 2: Chapters 3,4, 5

Week 3: Chapters 6, 7

Week 4: Chapters 8, 9

Week 5: Chapters 10, 11, 12

Week 6: Chapters 13, 14 and Afterword

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE - Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank will be having a 3rd blood drive on **Saturday, September 19th 8am to 2pm at St James**. Advance signup are recommended although a small number of walk ins may be able to be accommodated (masks are required) The sign up number is 1 800-771-0059 or at 717giveblood.org. A flyer will be sent out in an email blast.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY – WEATHER PERMITTING - Join the fellowship committee for a “Walk in the Park” at Adams Ricci on Sunday, September 20, after church. After entering the park off Magaro Road, make the first left and drive around the playground to the parking lot. You will see a pavilion where we will be meeting. The nail museum is located on the path above the pavilion. The paved path is just a little over a mile. Enjoy the butterfly garden, check out the caboos and new railroad crossing signage at the south entrance to the park, watch people playing pickleball, tennis, basketball and bocce ball. There could also be lacrosse, football, soccer, volleyball or baseball being played on the many athletic fields at the park. There will be children playing at the playground(s). Pay attention to the beautiful sculpture at the entrance to the park. The young at heart can walk the steep trail down to the creek. It is possible to keep social distance between you and your St. James friends and get some exercise and fresh air!

UPPER ROOM BOOKS – If anyone would like an Upper Room devotional book, please email Jen at stjamesoffice@verizon.net. If I get a request I will mail the book to you. The September / October books are available now.