

**St. James Presbyterian Church
September 27, 2020
17th Sunday after Pentecost
Outdoor Worship**

GATHERING

WORDS OF WELCOME

INTROIT

GOD GATHERS US IN

One: No matter how far we wander from God,

All: *God's love finds us.*

One: No matter how unjust the world seems to us,

All: *God's righteousness sustains us.*

One: No matter how vulnerable our lives seem to us,

All: *God's presence gives us hope.*

One: No matter how unloved and uncared for we feel,

All: *God hear our cries and answer our prayers.*

Let us give thanks and worship God.

OPENING PRAYER

All: *O God, we come into your presence as your people. Some of us come with hearts of joy, and some of us come loaded down with heavy burdens. All of us are eager for you to reveal your love to us – a love that hopes all things, endures all things, and never fails, as we journey with you through life. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.*

HYMN # 461

God Is Here!

***God is here! As we Your people
Meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure
What it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
All our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of the Spirit
Into open minds and hearts.***

***Here are symbols to remind us
Of our lifelong need of grace;
Here are table, font, and pulpit;
Here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
Here in silence, as in speech,
Here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.***

*Here our children find a welcome
In the Shepherd's flock and fold,
Here, as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
Seek in worship to explore
What it means in daily living
To believe and to adore.*

*Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
In an age of change and doubt
Keep us faithful to the gospel,
Help us work Your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
All we have to give, receive;
We, who cannot live without You,
We adore you! We believe!*

(Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1979, 1988; Music, Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941. CCLI # 223549)

CALL TO CONFESSION

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

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

All: Faithful God, you have been with your people through so much. And still we complain. You have filled us with good things, and we act as if you haven't given us enough. We have so much in our lives, and still we want more. We seek signs of your presence to still the burning question: "Is the Lord among us or not?" Quiet our questioning hearts and clamoring voices. Help us trust in you to quench our thirst. Hear our personal confession in silence.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: The Lord is our rock and our refuge, our source of forgiveness, faith, and hope. 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, your word is a gift to us, and we thank you for revealing yourself to us through it. As we come to your word today, give us fresh insight. May your Holy Spirit guide us as we read, listen, and respond to your truths. May we leave here changed because we have experienced the power of your word today. Amen.*

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21: 23-32

A MOMENT FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

MUSICAL MEDITATION

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 17: 1-7

SERMON

"Enemies of Gratitude: Nostalgia"
Elder Rosamond Presby

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN # 285

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

*God, You spin the whirling planets,
Fill the seas and spread the plain,
Mold the mountains, fashion blossoms,
Call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.
We, created in Your image,
Would a true reflection be
Of Your justice, grace, and mercy
And the truth that makes us free.*

*You have called us to be faithful
In our life and ministry.
We respond in grateful worship
Joined in one community.
When we blur Your gracious image,
Focus us and make us whole.
Healed and strengthened as Your people,
We move onward toward Your goal.*

*God, Your word is still creating,
Calling us to life made new.
Now reveal to us fresh vistas
Where there's work to dare and do.
Keep us clear of all distortion.
Polish us with loving care.
Thus, new creatures in Your image,
We'll proclaim Christ everywhere.*

(Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1978, CCLI # 3430198)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

OFFERTORY

Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN # 430

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

***Come sing, O church, in joy!
Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now
and praise the Lord!***

***Long years have come and gone,
And still God reigns supreme,
Empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now
and praise the Lord!***

***Let courage be our friend,
Let wisdom be our guide,
As we in mission magnify the crucified!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now
and praise the Lord***

***Come sing, O church, in joy!
Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now
and praise the Lord!***

(Words: Brian Dill, 1988, CCLI # 145366)

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 Jones Family

The Kane Family

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

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

Tom Dardick, Kathleen Vickroy, Geneva and Collyn (*all dealing with and recovering from the COVID19 virus*)

Carol Rudy and family (*death of Sam*)

Dick Geisel (*hospitalization*)

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

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.

MINI GOLF OUTING – St. James friends, come on out to **Rich Valley Golf Course** (227 Rich Valley Rd, Mechanicsburg) on **Saturday, October 3rd at 2:00 pm** for some COVID-friendly miniature golf! Contact Helen Cooke at 717-460-3969 with any questions.

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

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!

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.