

St. James Presbyterian Church
September 6, 2020
14th Sunday after Pentecost
Outdoor Worship

GATHERING

WORDS OF WELCOME

INTROIT

GOD GATHERS US IN

One: We come into the presence of the God of hope this morning
with confidence that the Lord will meet us here.

*All: The Lord brings joy where there is sadness,
refreshment where there is tiredness, hope where there is despair.*

One: This place is a sanctuary, a safe haven for us,
a home for holy words and songs and prayers.

*All: With words and songs and prayers
we come to give ourselves to God.*

OPENING PRAYER

All: O God, you are worthy of all our praise and worship. Today we celebrate your love and our relationship with you through Jesus Christ. Thank you for showing your love for us in so many ways. As we think of your love, we are reminded of your call to love those around us. Help us discover that the more we give ourselves to you, the more we have left to give ourselves to others. Make us servants in your name. Amen.

HYMN # 466 O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: When we reach out in faith, God comes near in love. When we humbly seek forgiveness, God responds with mercy and grace. In the confidence that God hears us when we pray, let us confess our sin together:

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

All: Gracious God, you command us to forgive, as you so generously forgive us. But we ignore you and hold on to our anger and grudges. We replay in our minds the slights and wrongs we feel others have inflicted on us. We allow bitterness, instead of joy, to rule our lives. We choose not to share the grace you have given us, or follow your example. Change our hearts so we are no longer consumed by animosity and pain. Forgive us the harm we cause when we are unrepentant and unforgiving. May our lives reflect the forgiveness we have received from you. Hear our personal confession in silence.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: God calls us back and never gives up on us even when we turn aside from his plan for us.. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are loved, and we are forgiven.
Amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE #355 (vs. 1)

Renville

Hear the Good News of Salvation

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

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Gracious God, as we listen to your word, give us a willingness to hear, the desire to know the truth, and the courage to follow in joyful obedience. May your word form us into people of faith. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 14: 19-31

MUSICAL MEDITATION

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 18: 21-35

SERMON

“Forgiveness Unlimited”
Elder Rosamond Presby

RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Doxology
Prayer of Dedication

HYMN # 298 There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

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 Hoffman Family

The Hoover Family

Christ Presbyterian Church (*Lebanon*)

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

Carol Rudy and family (*death of Sam – there will be a family service on Sept. 1st at Fort Indiantown Gap*)

Linda Hanner

Dick Geisel

Wallace Grissinger

Jim & Joyce Masters

Janet & Lin Sanders

Seth Carter

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

Greg Michael (*recovering from COVID19*).

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 will continue its discussion of racial justice and reconciliation by reading and discussing 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. Our discussion of I'm Still Here will begin on September 16, 2020. A limited number of copies of the book will be available in the narthex, or you can purchase one for your e-reader at most booksellers. 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:

With the racial unrest in our nation, I am glad we chose to study Be the Bridge. It has made me more aware and understanding of the perspectives of those who come from backgrounds different than mine. I have learned about events in history that are painful for so many, but were not taught in my history classes. We all begin this journey from our own individual starting points. Through education and the willingness to listen, we as individuals and as a church can be a "Bridge" in the process of racial reconciliation. All any of us wants is to be seen and heard and feel that we matter. I look forward to continuing on this important journey and invite you to join us as we begin our next book, I'm Still Here by Austin Channing Brown.

- Barb Rowe

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.

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.