

The First Presbyterian Church in Pitman, NJ

26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, September 30, 2018 | 10 AM | Rev. Drew Harrison

**For Prayer & Contemplation** (Reinhold Niebuhr)

‘...we do not have to despair because life is so brief, but we must not pretend to more because we are so great. Because we are both small and great, we have discerned a mystery and meaning beyond our smallness and our greatness, and a justice and a love which completes our incompleteness, which corrects our judgments, and which brings the whole story to a fulfillment beyond our power to fulfill any story.’

**Welcome & Sharing Information** Please sign the Fellowship Pad.

**Prelude** “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past” - arr. Culli

**Call to Worship** (from Ministry Matters)

**One:** If it had not been God who was on our side,

**All:** the troubles of our world would have swallowed us whole.

**One:** If it had not been God who was on our side,

**All:** the sorrows of our times would have swept us away.

**One:** Are any among us suffering?

**All:** Come and pray.

**One:** Are any among us cheerful?

**All:** Come sing songs of praise.

**One:** Are any among us sick?

**All:** Come and ask for healing.

**One:** Our help is in our God,

**All:** the One who made heaven and earth.

**One:** Call upon God, creator and rescuer.

God is on our side.

\***Hymn No. 307** “God of Grace and God of Glory”

**Prayer of Confession** (BCW)

Merciful God,  
in your gracious presence  
we confess our sin and the sin of this world.  
Although Christ is among us as our peace,  
we are a people divided against ourselves  
as we cling to the values of a broken world.  
The profit and pleasures we pursue  
lay waste to the land and pollute the seas.  
The fears and jealousies that we harbor  
set neighbor against neighbor  
and nation against nation.

(Continues...)

We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,  
of intellect and reason,  
and have turned them into bonds of oppression.

Lord, have mercy upon us;

heal and forgive us.

Set us free to serve you in the world

as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

**Moment of Silence**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Hear the words of the prophet Isaiah:

Remember these things, O Jacob,

and Israel, for you are my servant;

I formed you, you are my servant;

O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me.

I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud,

and your sins like mist;

return to me, for I have redeemed you

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

\***Hymn No. 581** “Glory Be to the Father”

“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.”

\***Passing of Peace**

**Anthem** “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” - arr. Warren

Soprano/Alto Ensemble

**Time with Children** (Dismissal to Sunday School)

(Children will return during final hymn.)

Pastor: It is time for you to depart.

Adults: God be with you there.

Children: God be with you here.

**Scripture**

- |                  |          |          |
|------------------|----------|----------|
| 1. James 5:13-20 | NT 231-2 | LP 281   |
| 2. Esther 4:9-17 | OT 447   | LP 552-3 |

**Sermon** “Crucial” — Rev. Drew Harrison

\***Affirmation of Faith** (from ‘A Brief Statement of Faith’)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
In a broken and fearful world  
the Spirit gives us courage

(Continues...)

to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth,  
praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

**Blessing & Sending**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offertory** “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song” - arr. Organ

\***Doxology No. 606**

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

\***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

God whose giving knows no ending, we offer to you our possessions, our skills, and our gifts, in thanksgiving for the gift of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**The Prayers of the People**

**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 No. 687** “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Hymn No. 838** "Standing on the Promises" verse 4  
 "Standing on the promises I cannot fall, listening every moment to the Spirit's call, resting in my Savior as my all in all, standing on the promises of God."

**Postlude** "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" - arr. Manz

\*\*\*\*\* **Please stand as you are able.** \*\*\*\*\*

- Please be advised that our worship service is filmed from the balcony. Though the camera's focus is primarily on the chancel, there are wide shots that may include parts of the congregation sitting near the front.
- Please join us in the Social Hall for Coffee Hour and fellowship. All are welcome.



Thank you to our Worship Servers	
<b>Liturgist</b>	Linda Richardson
<b>Greeter</b>	Joan Wagner
<b>Ushers</b>	Jennifer Grenier, Ed Mitchell, Margaret Ginter, Carol Schoepske
<b>Tellers</b>	Carol Schoepske, Terri Lovelace, Bob Webb



**Music Notes**

Today's prelude is Benjamin Culli's 20012 setting of the hymn tune "St. Anne," a favorite of composers from J. S. Bach and Handel to the present. The original melody is attributed to organist William Croft (1708) and is named for his parish in Soho, London. The offertory is Anne Krentz Organ's 2018 arrangement of the tune "Les Petites Soeurs," named for the religious community (Little Sisters of Jesus) founded by Little Sister Magdeleine of Jesus in 1939 in Algeria and now present in 63 countries throughout the world. We thank the Soprano/Alto ensemble for sharing special music with us this morning.

This Week's Calendar September 30-October 7	
Sunday September 30	Family Promise Hosting Week Begins 10 AM Worship 11:15 AM Sunshine Singers Practice 11:45 AM Housewarming for Rev. Paul Grenier - Social Hall
Monday October 1	7 PM Session - Upstairs Kitchen
Tuesday October 2	
Wednesday October 3	6 PM PW Fall Soup & Bread Meeting - Upstairs Kitchen 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Training - Pitman Methodist
Thursday October 4	8 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 8 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Friday October 5	6:30 PM Compline Worship Service - Church Front Lawn
Saturday October 6	9:30 AM PW Core Board - Upstairs Kitchen
Sunday October 7	10 AM Worship 11:15 AM Sunshine Singers Practice

Happy Birthday to...	
September 30	Hannah Grace Lindstedt
October 1	Pete Vignola
October 1	Presley Albadine
October 2	Charles Unger
October 2	Margaret Ginter
October 3	Suzanne Carson
October 4	Fred Wagner
October 5	Dave Owens
October 6	Becky Roesler
October 8	Bobbi Wilkins



# The First Presbyterian Church in Pitman

*"God's Open House"*

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*Sunday Worship Service @ 10 AM*

- ✚ Communion on the first Sunday of the month
- ✚ Sunday School each week from 10:20-11:05 AM