

The First Presbyterian Church in Pitman, NJ

6th Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, February 16, 2020 • 10 AM • Rev. Drew Harrison

For Prayer and Contemplation

'Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.' - *Mordecai (Esther 4:14)*

Welcome & Sharing Information Please sign the Fellowship Pad.

Prelude "Lift High the Cross" - arr. Frahm

Call to Worship (adapted from Jeremiah 46)

One: But as for you, have no fear, my servant Jacob

All: **And do not be dismayed O Israel**

One: For I am going to save you from far away,

All: **And your offspring from the land of their captivity.**

One: Jacob shall return and have quiet and ease,

All: **And no one shall make him afraid.**

One: As for you, have no fear, my servant Jacob.

All: **for I am with you.**

*Hymn No. 300 "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love"

Prayer of Confession (BCW)

Merciful God,

we know what is right,

but we are afraid to do it.

We are afraid to stand out.

We are afraid to sacrifice.

We are afraid to admit we've been wrong.

Redeem us, Lord.

Fill us with your spirit of steadfast faithfulness,

so that we might bravely and boldly proclaim your name

and your grace for all.

Moment of Silence

Words of Assurance (1 Timothy 1:15 adapted)

One: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Christ has come to set us free from our sins.

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

*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

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Anthem "Shine In My Heart, Lord Jesus" - arr. Organ

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. Revelation 2:14-22 | NT 246 | LP 298 |
| 2. Esther 4:11-17 | OT 447 | LP 552-3 |

Prayer of Illumination

Sermon "Being Distinct Part 2: The Esther Story"

- Rev. Drew Harrison

*Affirmation of Faith (Theological Declaration of Barmen, 8.17-18)

The Christian Church is the congregation of the brethren in which Jesus Christ acts presently as the Lord in Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit.

As the Church of pardoned sinners, it has to testify

in the midst of a sinful world,

with its faith as with its obedience,

with its message as with its order,

that it is solely his property,

and that it lives and wants to live solely from his comfort and from his direction in the expectation of his

appearance.

We reject the false doctrine, as though the church were permitted to abandon the form of its message and order to its own pleasure or to changes in prevailing ideological and political convictions.

Invitation to Offering

Offertory "Simple Gifts" - arr. Held

*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 (Nathan Williams)

Faithful God,

you put your gifts in our hands

for such a time as this.

Bless the gifts we commit to your work today

for the relief and deliverance of your people in need.

We pray in Jesus' name. 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. 826 "Lift High the Cross"

*Benediction

*Benediction Hymn No. 545 (VI)

"Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace"

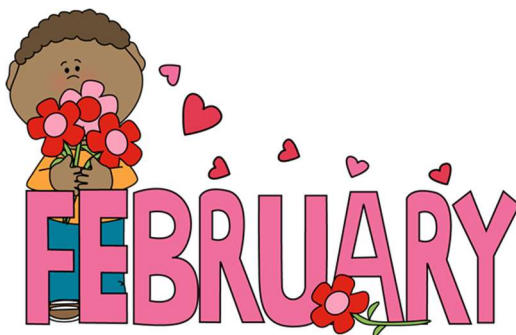
"Lord, bid your servant go in peace; your word is now fulfilled. These eyes have seen salvation's dawn, this child so long foretold."

Postlude "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love" - arr. Held

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

*Please note that the Prayers of the People is adapted from a prayer by Richard Einerson.

<i>Thank you to our Worship Servers</i>	
Acolyte	
Greeter	Joan Wagner
Liturgist	Darlene Jacobson
Ushers	Margaret Ginter, Nancy Stewart, Linda Waller, Karen Daly
Tellers	Jean Brod, Mike Ballard, Bobbi Wilkins
Coffee Hr. Host	Kelle Franzen



<i>This Week's Calendar</i> February 16-23	
<i>Sunday</i> February 16	10 AM Worship – Sanctuary 11:15 AM Sunshine Singers Practice – Music Room 11:15 AM Christian Ed. Committee – Up Kitchen
<i>Monday</i> February 17	
<i>Tuesday</i> February 18	5:30 PM 3 rd Meal Community Dinner – Social Hall
<i>Wednesday</i> February 19	10 AM Joy Circle – Upstairs Kitchen 1 PM Faith Circle – Upstairs Kitchen 7 PM Circle of Life – Church Library
<i>Thursday</i> February 20	7 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 8 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
<i>Friday</i> February 21	6:30 PM Private Event – Social Hall
<i>Saturday</i> February 22	6 PM Family Game Night – Social Hall
<i>Sunday</i> February 23	10 AM Worship – Sanctuary *No Sunshine Singers Practice Today* 11:30 AM Stephen Ministry – Upstairs Kitchen

The First Presbyterian Church in Pitman

"God's Open House"

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Sanctuary Flowers

Today's Sanctuary Flowers are in memory of Gary Wriggins, given by Dottie Clay.



Music Notes

Today's prelude is Frederick Frahm's 2003 setting of the hymn tune "Crucifer," which was originally written by Sydney Hugo Nicholson in 1916. The offertory and postlude are both hymn-tune arrangements by composer/organist/teacher Wilbur Held, who served on the faculty of Ohio State University (Professor of Organ and Church Music) for 30 years and lived to be 100. We thank the Sunshine Singers for sharing special music with us this morning.



This Week's Birthdays

February 16	Alan Montgomery
February 21	Mike Lowe
February 22	Karen Daly
February 23	Jennifer Weinhardt



Sunday Worship Service @ 10 AM

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