

The First Presbyterian Church in Pitman, NJ
6th Sunday after Pentecost • Independence Day
Sunday, July 4, 2021 • 10 AM • Rev. Drew Harrison

Welcome & Sharing Information Please sign the Fellowship Pad.

Prelude

Call to Worship (*The Worshipbook*, 1970)

One: Mighty God, the earth is yours and nations are your people. Take away our pride and bring to mind your goodness, so that, living together in this land, we may enjoy your gifts and be thankful.

All: Amen.

One: For clouded mountains, fields, and woodland; for shoreline and running streams, for all that makes our nation good and lovely;

All: We thank you, God.

One: For farms and villages where food is gathered to feed our people;

All: We thank you, God.

One: For cities where people talk and work together in factories, offices, shops, or schools to shape the things we need for living;

All: We thank you, God.

One: For explorers, planners, statesmen; for prophets who speak out, and for silent faithful people; for all who love our land and guard our freedom;

All: We thank you, God.

One: For vision to see your purpose hidden in our nation's history, and courage to seek it in brotherly love exchanged;

All: We thank you, God.

***Hymn No. 340** "This is My Song"

Prayer of Confession (*The Worshipbook*, 1970)

One: O God, your justice is like rock, and your mercy like pure flowing water. Judge and forgive us. If we have turned from you, return us to your way; for without you we are lost people. From brassy patriotism and blind trust in power;

All: Deliver us, O God.

All: Deliver us, O God.

One: From public deceptions that weaken trust; from self-seeking in high political places;

All: Deliver us, O God.

One: From divisions among us of class or race; from wealth that will not share, and poverty that feeds on food of bitterness;

All: Deliver us, O God.

One: From neglecting rights; from overlooking the hurt, the imprisoned, the needy among us;...

All: Deliver us, O God.

One: From a lack of concern for other lands and peoples; from narrowness of national purpose; from failure to welcome the peace you promise on earth;

All: Deliver us, O God.

Moment of Silence

Words of Assurance

One: Hear what God declared to God's servant Solomon: if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Turning to God, we know that our redemption has already been made for us:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***Hymn No. 591** "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!"

"Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!"

***Passing of Peace**

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Time with Children

Scripture Galatians 5:1-6 (NT 190 • LP 232)

Prayer of Illumination

Sermon "A Truer Freedom" - Rev. Drew Harrison

***Affirmation of Faith**

We trust in God the Holy Spirit

everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,

sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and

neighbor, and binds us together with all believers

in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit-

who inspired the prophets and apostles

rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,

engages us through the Word proclaimed,

claims us in the waters of baptism,...

feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of

salvation,

and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world

the Spirit gives us courage

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!"

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

***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, you are the giver of every good gift. Thank you for feeding us, sustaining us, and guiding us. Humbly, we offer our gifts to you, in thanksgiving and hope. Amen.

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to Communion

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise to God.

It is so very right for us to praise you, God, for you are the source of all that is good, the source of all that is true, the source of all that is right...

In the beginning you breathed your very spirit into this world and created the majestic mountains, the raging rivers and bottomless oceans, the skies, and the sunsets, that make up the earth we call home.

You filled our planet with peoples of incredible diversity that ever reveals your creativity and power, but made us all your children, regardless of the distinctions we make among ourselves.

You delivered us, over and over again, from famine and plague, from oppression and tyranny, from sin and self-satisfaction.

You called us with a vision of a new reality, a promised land of milk and honey, a promised day of the Lord, a promised Kingdom that will have no end.

You revealed your purposes to us through judges, prophets, and kings,

In the fullness of time you sent your very own Son as a revelation to us of what it means to be human with one another.

He lived in solidarity with poor,
he humbled himself and made himself lower than any other,
he rejected the hierarchies and distinctions that we created to abuse one another,

and instead revealed a new way – radical inclusion, self-denying love, and faithful obedience to God.

This way led through death and to eternal life, and he calls to us from heaven and bids us to follow, that we may joyfully make our way to the feast that he has prepared.

Thank you for Jesus,
and for his presence with us
revealed today in bread and wine.

As we remember his love for us, we lift up all whom he loved, and especially all who suffer—

**To all who hunger and thirst, bring nourishment.
To all who are sick, bring healing.
To all who are lost, shine your light.
To nations at war, bring peace.
To the addicted, bring solace.
To the grieving bring comfort.
To the despairing, bring hope.**

And bring us with you, so that we may be witnesses to the coming kingdom, over and over again, breaking into our world...

In bold hope for your kingdom, we pray together the words that Jesus taught us—

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.

The Prayers of the People

Words of Institution Rev. Drew Harrison

The Sharing of the Supper

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, how can we thank you for such a gift? For you have met us, fed us, drawn us to you, and bound us to one another. Now send us out to share your love and proclaim our hope until Christ comes again. Amen.

*Hymn No. 338 “O Beautiful For Spacious Skies”

*Benediction

*Benediction Hymn No. 240 (v2) “Alleluia, Alleluia”
“Alleluia, Alleluia, Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, Give praise to his name. Spread the good news o'er all the earth. Jesus has died and has risen. Alleluia, Alleluia, Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, Give praise to his name.”

Postlude

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

The First Presbyterian Church in Pitman



"God's Open House"

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Sunday Worship Service