

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

St. Louis, Missouri

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The Order for Worship
5th Sunday after Pentecost
July 5, 2020

Preparation for Worship

Bless us, O God, with a reverent sense of your presence, that we may be at peace and may worship you with all our mind and spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ GATHER IN GOD'S NAME +

Prelude

Listen, God is Calling

Tanzanian tune
arr. Robert Chamberlain

Welcome

Call to Worship

Come, all who carry heavy burdens, and Christ will give you rest.
For he is gentle and humble in heart: in him we find rest for our souls.

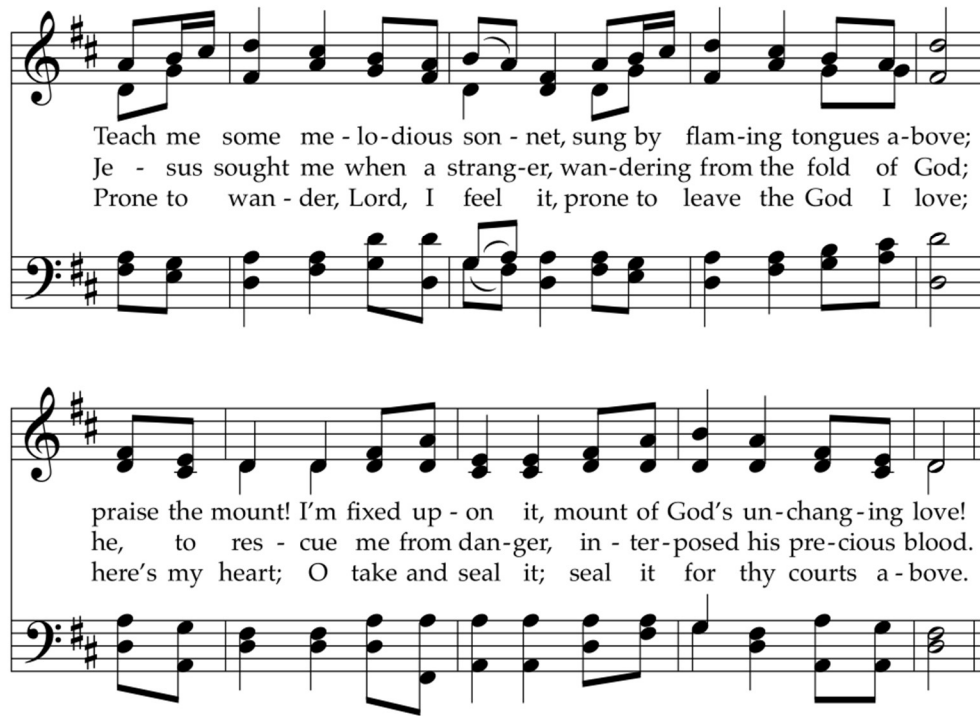
*Hymn #475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton

1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Call to Confession

God upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. Therefore let us confess our sin with every confidence that we will be lifted up.

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, we confess to you and to each other that we are tired and weighed down by the mistakes we have made, even in our closest relationships with our friends, our spouses, and our partners. We give this burden to you, mindful of Jesus' promise that he will give us rest.

[Time for Silence and Reflection]

Assurance of Pardon

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

Passing of the Peace

Mike and Barbara Willock

+ PROCLAIM THE WORD +

Sacred Space for Children with Song

Companions on the Journey

Mary Donald
 Carey Landry

We are companions on the journey breaking bread and sharing life.
 And in the love we bear is the hope we share for we believe in the love of our God.

Children's Recessional

Bunessan

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our King;
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praises we sing.**

Prayer for Illumination

Comforting God, by your Holy Spirit lift the burdens from our souls through the reading of your Word for us, that we may learn how easy it is to live in a loving relationship with you. **Amen.**

Epistle Scripture

Romans 7:15-25a

The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Come, Through Almighty King

Alfred Whitehead
Choir Section Leaders

Come, Thou almighty King, Help us Thy name to sing, Help us to praise!
Father all glorious, O'er all victorious,
Come and reign over us, Ancient of days.

Come, Thou incarnate Word, Gird on Thy mighty sword, Our prayer attend;
Come and Thy people bless, Give to Thy word success:
Spirit of holiness, On us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour:
Thou who almighty art, Now rule in every heart,
And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power!

To Thee, great One in Three, Eternal praises be hence evermore:
Thy sovereign majesty, May we in glory see,
And to eternity, Love and adore! Amen.

-Whitefield's Leaflet (1757)

The Gospel

Matthew 11:28

The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Reverend Travis B. Winckler

+ RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD +

Call to Commitment and Offering

Christine Peters

Offertory

How Can I Keep from Singing

Richard Walters
Lori Hoffman, alto solo

My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.
I hear the real, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
It sounds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing?

What though the tempest round me rears, I know the truth, it liveth.
What though the darkness round me close, songs in the night it giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
It sounds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble, sick with fear and hear their death knells ringing;
when friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing?
In prison cell and dungeon vile our thoughts to them are winging.
When friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing?

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
It sounds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing?

*Doxology

Da n'ase

Praise to God the Fa - ther; praise to God the Son; praise to God the
Spir - it: praise to the Three-in - One. Sing praise, sing praise to the Lord on
high. Praise to God Al - might - y; praise to the Ho - ly One.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily
bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen.

+ GO IN GOD'S NAME +

*Hymn #337

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

America

1 My coun - try, 'tis of thee, sweet land of
2 My na - tive coun - try, thee, land of the
3 Let mu - sic swell the breeze, and ring from
4 Our *fa - thers' God, to thee, au - thor of

lib - er - ty, of thee I sing: land where my
no - ble free, thy name I love; I love thy
all the trees sweet free - dom's song. Let mor - tal
lib - er - ty, to thee we sing. Long may our

*fa - thers died, land of the pil - grims' pride,
rocks and rills, thy woods and tem - pled hills;
tongues a - wake; let all that breathe par - take;
land be bright with free - dom's ho - ly light;



Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Improvisation on *America*

Andrew Peters

Goodbye to Lori Hoffman

Andrew Peters

We are sorry to say an official goodbye today to Lori Hoffman, our choir alto section leader. While Lori may still sing later this summer we wanted to announce her departure as we begin the search for a new alto section leader. We wish Lori all of the best in her next chapter in life.

Today's Worship Participants

Pastor	Reverend Travis Winckler
Children's Music	Mary Donald
Choir Section Leaders	Derek Dahlke, Jackie Davis, Lori Hoffman
Organist/Pianist	Andrew Peters
Music Videographer	Christine Peters
Worship Video Editor	Andrew Peters

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Virtual Coffee Hour

Join Reverend Winckler today for virtual coffee hour at 12:00 noon over zoom. To participate, go to

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81009341942?pwd=ZmpaZmt5bXQ1WmRYcVNNUnFkdGxIU T09>

The meeting ID is 810 0934 1942 and the password is 473437.

To call in on a telephone, dial 312-626-6799.

Congregational Prayers

Please submit prayer concerns to Rev. Travis or the office by Thursday at 8:00 am to be included for prayer in weekly worship. Also, please state if you would like your prayer request on the list for one or multiple weeks. Thank you.

Care and comfort

John and Judy Leo

Christy and family as they grieve the loss of her step-sister, Kelly

Jessica and Kirstin who have tested positive for Covid

Summer Medford - Jean Merson's daughter, Michelle

Ivahn Greenwood - Richard Cade's sister who is hospitalized

Hope and healing

Good Ground Pantry friends and guests

The unemployed and underemployed

We give thanks...

Recent Supreme Court decisions that stand against discrimination on the basis of gender

In light of the DACA decision, we pray that immigrant families and children can experience a future with hope in this nation

Nancy Smith's continued recovery at home after her procedure

Ellen's continued recovery from an eye procedure

Time with family

For the ministry of Lori Hoffman

An article from Reverend Dr. Barbara Willock, Parish Associate

Table Grace
Relationships

Gen 24:24-38, 42-49, 58-67 Song of Songs 2:8-13 Rom 7:15-25a Matt 11:16-19, 25-30

There are some Bible stories we tremble to share with our children ~ like the Genesis readings from the past two weeks which show children in grave danger from their parents. And then there are stories like this week's reading from Genesis about Abraham's faithful servant who goes "back home" to find a bride for Isaac and comes back with the beautiful Rebecca. In the course of the telling, it becomes a love story showing the power of faithful relationships between people willing to be guided by one another and by God. This is one of the few Sundays in the 3-year lectionary that we get a reading from the Song of Songs [aka The Song of Solomon] which celebrates loving relationships like Isaac and Rebecca's.

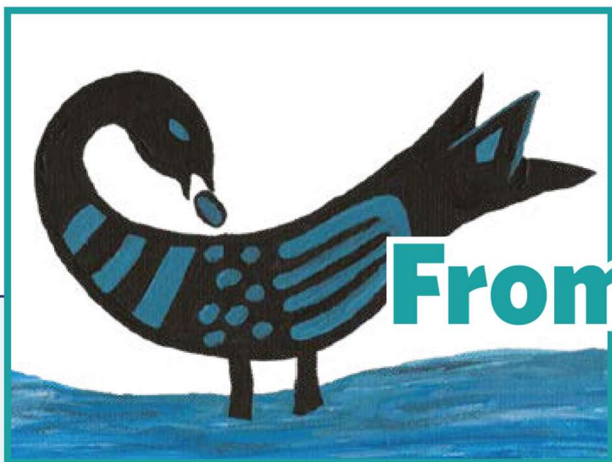
The epistle lesson this week comes from the ever-practical Paul who deals with the issues that confront all of us, doesn't sugar-coat them, but does offer us hope in the midst of despair. In this week's passage from Romans, he rehearses the fact that no matter how much we want to do the right thing, we don't. No matter how hard we try to be good, we fail. We cannot even live up to our own flimsy standards to say nothing of God's. BUT ~ one of the most wonderful of theological words ~ BUT we have been rescued from all our failings and failures and ~ dare I say is ~ sins by Jesus Christ. No wonder Paul bursts out in thanksgiving to God!

The readings from Matthew for this Sunday are what are referred to as "sayings" of Jesus. In the first "saying," Jesus is complaining that "this" ¿every? generation wants things their way, not God's way. In the second saying, the CEB Study Bible annotation states that "God's gift of insight is available to those who haven't predetermined what God can or can't do." And the final saying is the paradoxical assurance that if you're weary, take on Jesus' yoke and you will find rest for your *soul*. [italics mine]

Each of these scriptures have something to say about relationships. And at the Table we celebrate that in Jesus Christ our relationships with God and with one another and with ourselves have been made right. God, through Jesus, has reached out to us and invited us to dine in heavenly fellowship with all who have taken on the yoke of Christ. At the Table, as we take the elements of bread and fruit of the vine, we are reminded that God through Jesus has done for us what we cannot do for ourselves. Because what we most needed ~ a right relationship with God ~ has *already* been *given* to us, we have only to give our thanksgiving as we join with Jesus in his work. At the Table we are reminded that we are freed from trying to be good enough so that we can do the good God enables us to do with and for and because of Jesus. Thanks be to God!

Shalom,

Barbara
Parish Associate for Worship



From lament to action

by Leslie Scanlon, *Outlook* national reporter



From lamentation to action — the 2020 General Assembly called the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to do the hard work of justice, working to respond to what some referred to as the twin pandemics of COVID-19 and racial injustice.

Worship. The **worship service June 26** used the power of the digital platform to weave together music, art and voices from around the PC(USA) — including a Zoom choir for one of the closing hymns.

Wearing stoles that were a gift from the Committee on Local Arrangements in Baltimore, made by Jeff Wunrow Designs and featuring a Black fist raised in a symbol of power, Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri and Cindy Kohlmann, the co-moderators of the 2018 General Assembly, called the commissioners to journey in faith from lamentation to confession to hope to action.

"Surrounded as we are by the sounds of respirators and the cries of the grieving and the raised voices of protesters, help us, oh Lord, to hear your voice, and give us the courage to hear that voice," Kohlmann said.

God provides abundantly "far more than we could have asked for or imagined," Cintrón-Olivieri said, drawing on a passage from Ephesians. And she recited a poem from Antonio Machado, "**Caminante, no hay camino**" — telling the commissioners "you make the path by walking" and giving them responsibility to find the way forward as they walk in faith.

Virtual GA. Because of COVID-19, this became the PC(USA)'s first virtual General Assembly, meeting via Zoom — with technology that had more hiccups than hard bumps ("Can you hear me?" was the first thing many commissioners said). That format also meant the assembly considered "core and critical" business — referring many other reports to the next assembly in 2022. Some business that did make it through: offering the church's presence and advocacy for **those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic** and support for the **work of the Native American Coordinating Council and for repairing Native American church properties.**

Co-moderators. Because the opening plenary on June 19 ran late — in part with commissioners **debating what business to defer to 2022**, and in a **dispute over whether San Francisco Theological Seminary remains as a PC(USA) seminary** — the assembly added an extra plenary session June 20 in order to elect co-moderators.

The decision didn't take long, as the **assembly elected Elona Street-Stewart, an Indigenous ruling elder, and Gregory Bentley, a Black minister**, on the first ballot — with 304 commissioners voting for them, three times as many votes as for the next-closest team. Street-Stewart is synod executive of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and, as a member of the Delaware Nanticoke tribe, an assembly's first Native American co-moderator. Bentley is pastor of Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, Alabama.

Their election was emotional, as Oscar J. McCloud prayed during their installation that their paths had been watered with the tears and blood of their ancestors. Bentley pronounced himself to be “hippopotamus happy and dinosaur delighted.”

Bentley and Street-Stewart have **chosen as their symbol the Sankofa bird**: standing in the Mississippi River, representing flying forward while looking backward, a hope, Bentley said, of bringing “the best of our cultures to make the church better.”

Racism. On June 26 the assembly **approved a resolution** called “Responding to the Sin of Racism and a Call to Action” — declaring that Black lives matter; confessing that the church has been complicit in perpetuating injustice; and pledging to “confront and dismantle systemic racism” in the church and in society. That resolution was a substitute for another option that commissioners determined was not strong enough — as Milo Browne, a young adult advisory delegate from the Presbytery of Scioto Valley put it: “It is inexcusable for us to stand in silence as people are being killed.”

Stated clerk. The assembly re-elected J. Herbert Nelson, 61, to a **second four-year term** as the PC(USA)’s stated clerk — the denomination’s chief ecclesial officer and its voice in the public square. Nelson was the only candidate — no one else applied — and was installed with a prayer from his wife, Gail Porter Nelson, also a PC(USA) pastor.

Nelson expressed thanks, saying “I’m still a pastor” at heart — and said “there is a Savior who reminds us you can go to the poor, to the broken, to the widows, and make a difference,” to get out of the church building. “I don’t ever remember Jesus having a church house. Every one he went into, he got thrown out of.”

San Francisco Theological Seminary.

Bentley and Street-Stewart avoided a floor fight

on this dispute by announcing June 27 that they would bring representatives from the seminary and the Committee on the Office of Theological Education together shortly after the assembly concludes to **try to resolve the issue**, using a mediator if necessary.

Budget. The assembly approved a **unified PC(USA) budget** of \$80.1 million for 2021 and \$83.4 million for 2022 built on the assumption that COVID-19 will cause income to decline by roughly 25% this year and next. The assembly also approved **a General Assembly per capita rate of \$8.98 per member** for 2021 and 2022 — three cents higher than the \$8.95 per member rate for 2019 and 2020.

Repentance and action. The assembly concluded **with controversy and repentance**. The controversy: a failed attempt to introduce a statement on the ways “that Black women and girls are disproportionately affected by the systems of white supremacy and misogynoir in communities, the church and society at large.” A vote to suspend the rules to allow that motion to be heard needed 326 votes (2/3 of the enrolled commissioners), but got only 306, with 144 voting against, despite a social media push for the PC(USA) to #TrustBlackWomen.

Asked to address these concerns with prayer, Nelson started with silence, then prayed for Black girls whose “bodies and their minds and their spirits would be broken down in so many ways,” and for their mothers who “fall on their knees and pray for their daughters and cry for them.”

The assembly then spent 8 minutes and 46 seconds in silent corporate lament — the time that Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin knelt pressing on the neck of George Floyd.

“Guide our feet,” Street-Stewart prayed, asking God to lead Presbyterians as they find their paths, to “live out the church’s Great Ends into the street.”