



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Place to Believe, Belong, and Become

*Living as disciples of Jesus, practicing hospitality,
bringing hope through worship, prayer, and fellowship*

July 19, 2020

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

PRELUDE

“How Majestic is Your Name!”

E. Broughton

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 139

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down

and are acquainted with all my ways.

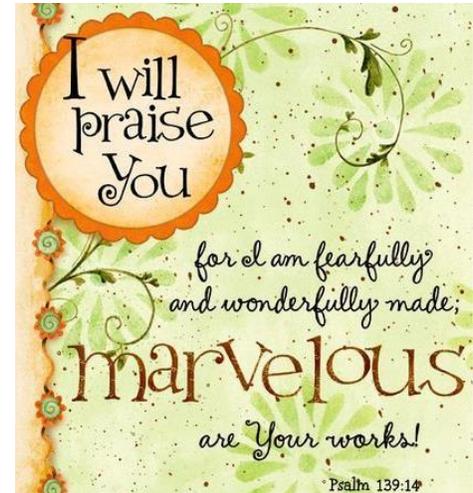
Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

Search me, O God, and know my heart.

**See if there is any wicked way in me and lead me
in the way everlasting.**

ALL: Let us worship God!



INVOCATION

(Let us join in as we invoke the presence of God's Spirit)

Gracious God, you have searched us and known us. You, indeed, discern our thoughts from afar. You lead us in the way everlasting as we gather to bless you for your bountiful mercy, for the compassion and care you extend to us. You are our shield and defender, our hope and our comfort. We give you all praise as we join in Christ's name. Amen.

HYMN

“Let Us with a Gladsome Mind”

Let us with a gladsome mind, / Praise the Lord, who is so kind.

For God's mercies shall endure, / Ever faithful, ever sure.

God, with all commanding might, / Filled the new made world with light.

For God's mercies shall endure, / Ever faithful, ever sure.

All things living God does feed, / With full measure meets their need.

For God's mercies shall endure, / Ever faithful, ever sure.

Let us with a gladsome mind, / Praise the Lord, who is so kind.

For God's mercies shall endure, / Ever faithful, ever sure.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God's love is unqualified, and God's mercy is “ever faithful ever sure.” Let us confess our need for that mercy which never fails.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Let us open hearts and minds as we join in)*

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, so that we may abide in your love and serve only your will.

pause for silent confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus knows our every weakness and loves us still. Awaken to the promise of Christ's amazing grace. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (*Feel free to offer your greetings in the Chat Box*)

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all! **And also with you.**

GLORIA PATRI

*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.*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 28:10-22



¹⁰ Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹² And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴ and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵ Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶ Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!" ¹⁷ And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

¹⁸ So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first. ²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, ²¹ so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, ²² and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house; and of all that you give me I will surely give one-tenth to you."

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"You're Worthy of My Praise" with "O Worship the King"

Arr. L. Larson

⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” ⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰ Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” ⁵¹ And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“This was Always the Place”

Pastor James Moore

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

based on Ephesians 3

We believe that grace has been given to bring to the world the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church, the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

HYMN

“On a Hill Far Away”

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, /
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best /
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, /
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross, /
And exchange it some day for a crown.

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, /
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above /
To bear it to dark Calvary.

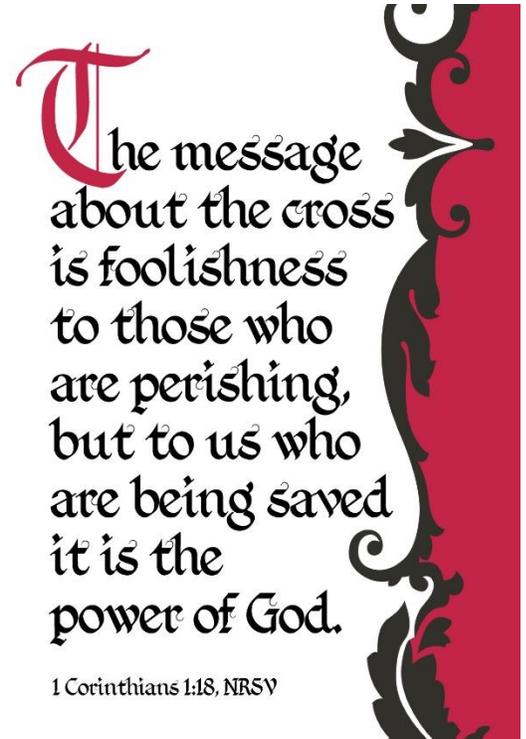
Refrain

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true; /
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away, /
Where His glory forever I'll share.

Refrain

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We will have a communal sharing time first with those who have video access and then with those who are on their land lines. Please also feel free to share your joys and concerns in the Chat Box.





PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
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.**

OFFERING "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" Arr. L. Shackley
DOXOLOGY

*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.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Let us join in along as we give thanks for God's daily provision*)

God of all goodness and grace, give us such confidence, such peace, such happiness in you, that your will may always be dearer to us than our will, and your pleasure than our pleasure. All that you give is your free gift to us, all that you take away is your grace to us. May you be thanked for all, praised for all, loved for all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN "We Gather Together"

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known.
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, were at our side, all glory be Thine!

We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our defender will be.
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "It Is Well with My Soul" Arr. J. Turner

