

# First Presbyterian Church of Newton

10:30 AM JANUARY 15, 2023

Whether we worship in person or online,  
may the Spirit of God unite us  
in praise and prayer,  
worship and witness  
to the saving love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*\* indicates when to rise in body or in spirit*

(PH denotes *The Presbyterian Hymnal*,  
STF denotes *Sing the Faith Hymnal*)



## Gathering in God's Name

### WORDS OF WELCOME

### PRELUDE

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We proclaim the message of the manger.

People: **This is the wisdom and Spirit of God.**

Leader: For God is steadfast love, light and peace.

People: **And we are called to see and hear and touch all that God is.**

*Here in this place new light is streaming,  
Now is the darkness vanished away,  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,  
Brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,  
Gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
Call to us now and we shall awaken,  
We shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young, our lives are a mystery,  
We are the old who yearn for your face,  
We have been sung throughout all of history,  
Called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,  
Gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
Give us the courage to enter the song.*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
Not in some heaven light years away,  
But here in this place the new light is shining,  
Now is the Kingdom, now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever,  
Gather us in and make us your own;  
Gather us in, all peoples together,  
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace.**

**In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ. (Our silent prayers continue...)**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Leader:** The mercy of the Lord is like rain, like showers that water the earth.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

God sent Jesus, the Prince of Peace. In his name, let us share that peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.** (Please share the peace from a distance.)

## **Listening For God's Word**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)**

**Holy One, giver of all light, lift up our hearts and minds to Christ, the morning star that never fades. By the light of your Holy Spirit reveal to us your saving Word and lead us to offer our lives to you in service and in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 27:1,4-9

Leader: <sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

People: <sup>4</sup>**One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:  
to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.**

Leader: <sup>5</sup>For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will set me high on a rock.

People: <sup>6</sup>**Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

Leader: <sup>7</sup>Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud,  
be gracious to me and answer me!

People: <sup>8</sup>**“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”  
Your face, LORD, do I seek.**

All: <sup>9</sup>**Do not hide your face from me.  
Do not turn your servant away in anger,  
you who have been my help.  
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!**

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

### THE CRIPPLED MAN MEETS JESUS AT THE POOL

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 5:1-13

From Growing In God's Love Story Bible

## **MEETING THE LEPER IN SCRIPTURE AND STORY**

### **SCRIPTURE LESSON**

**Matthew 8:1-4**

<sup>8</sup>When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him; <sup>2</sup>and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean.” <sup>3</sup>He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I do choose. Be made clean!” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. <sup>4</sup>Then Jesus said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

### **THE LEPER’S STORY**

## **A WOMAN MEETS JESUS IN SCRIPTURE AND STORY**

### **SCRIPTURE LESSON**

**Luke 8:40-48**

<sup>40</sup>Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. <sup>41</sup>Just then there came a man named Jairus, a leader of the synagogue. He fell at Jesus’ feet and begged him to come to his house, <sup>42</sup>for he had an only daughter, about twelve years old, who was dying. As he went, the crowds pressed in on him. <sup>43</sup>Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years; and though she had spent all she had on physicians, no one could cure her. <sup>44</sup>She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his clothes, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped. <sup>45</sup>Then Jesus asked, “Who touched me?” When all denied it, Peter said, “Master, the crowds surround you and press in on you.” <sup>46</sup>But Jesus said, “Someone touched me; for I noticed that power had gone out from me.” <sup>47</sup>When the woman saw that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. <sup>48</sup>He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.”

### **THE WOMAN’S STORY**

## **REFLECTIONS ON ALL THE SCRIPTURES**

## Responding to God's Word

\* HYMN STF #2175

*“Together We Serve”*

*Together we serve, united by love,  
inviting God's world to the glorious feast.  
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy,  
extending your love to the last and the least.*

*We seek to become a beacon of hope,  
A lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.  
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through  
until we see Christ in each person we meet.*

*We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor,  
the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.  
We offer a home to those who will come,  
our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.*

*Together, by grace, we witness and work,  
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.  
Together we serve in Spirit and truth,  
remembering love is the strength of our song.*

## **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**From the Iona Community**

**We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD'S SERVICE**

## **OFFERTORY**

## **\* SUNG RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING PH #591**

***“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.”***

## **\* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

## **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

## **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.**

## Going Into The World as Christ's Disciples

\* HYMN PH #358

*"Help Us Accept Each Other"*

*Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;  
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe  
We are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.*

*Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life  
We struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,  
to love them as we find them or as they may become.*

*Let Your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved  
In living situations to do the truth in love;  
To practice Your acceptance until we know by heart  
The table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.*

*Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,  
Who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,  
We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:  
Renew us with Your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!*

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*"God Welcomes All"*

*God welcomes all, strangers and friends;  
God's love is strong and it never ends.*

\* POSTLUDE

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**OUR WORSHIP IS ENDED.  
OUR SERVICE BEGINS!**  
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(Scripture readings from NRSV; Liturgy from "Dandelions and Thistle" a worship resource of the Iona Community)