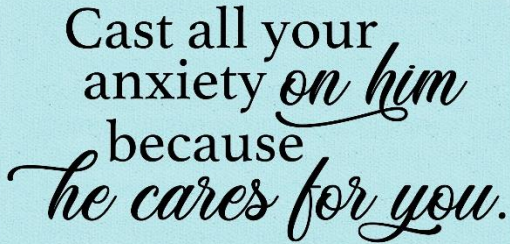


First Presbyterian Church of Newton

10:30 AM MAY 21, 2023

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

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



Cast all your
anxiety *on him*
because
he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:7

***Cast all your anxiety on him because
he cares for you.
Be self-controlled and alert...
And the God of all grace,
who called you to his
eternal glory in Christ,
after you have suffered a little while,
will himself restore you and make you
strong, firm and steadfast.
To him be the power for ever and ever.
(from 1 Peter 5)***

Gathering in God's Name

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sing to God; sing praises to God's name.

Let all the nations bow down to worship God

People: **God is ruler over all creation.**

God reigns over earth and the farthest heavens.

Leader: Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over all

Listen to hear God's mighty voice.

People: **This sanctuary is filled with God's presence.**

Here we receive power and strength from God.

Leader: Here we pray together for God's guidance.

The Holy Spirit empowers us to witness.

People: **God draws us together as one people.**

We can experience eternity in the midst of time.

***God is here! As we Your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.***

***Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
Here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
Here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.***

***Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd’s flock and fold,
Here, as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
What it means in daily living to believe and to adore.***

***Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt,
Keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work Your purpose out.
Here, in this day’s dedication, all we have to give, receive:
We, who cannot live without You, we adore You! We believe!***

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, if we suffer, it is usually not because of our loyalty to Christ. When we are glad and shout for joy, it is seldom because we want to celebrate your presence with us. We even forget to say thank you when, by the power and strength you give us, we accomplish some cherished goal. Our lives are not focused on realizing your rule of love on earth, as in heaven. O God, receive our confession and help us to discipline ourselves in caring discipleship. (Our silent prayers continue...)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Let the righteous be joyful! The God of all grace cares about you and wants the very best for you, in company with all of God's children. God restores, supports and strengthens you. And the Good News for us is this...

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.**

***HYMN PH #579**

“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.***

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

(Based on Ephesians 2.15,16)

Christ is our peace. Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross. We meet in Christ's name and share the peace of Christ. May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

Listening For God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING

I Peter 5:6-11

Leader: Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

People: **Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.**

Leader: Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

People: **And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.**

All: **To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 1:6-14

So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

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

SERMON

“Moving On”

Responding to God’s Word

* HYMN PH #417 **“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”**

***Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;
Holy Zion’s help forever, and her confidence alone.***

***To this temple, where we call You, come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
With Your wonted loving kindness, hear Your people as they pray,
And Your fullest benediction shed within its walls always.***

***Here bestow on all Your servants what they ask to gain,
What they gain from You forever with the blessed to retain,
And hereafter in Your glory evermore with You to reign.***

***Laud and honor to the Father, Laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three, and ever one;
One in might and one in glory while unending ages run.***

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison) from A Brief Statement of Faith**

In life and death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. 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! With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD'S SERVICE

OFFERTORY

***SONG OF PRAISE 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 #339

"Be Thou My Vision"

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.*

*Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

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**OUR WORSHIP IS ENDED.**

**OUR SERVICE BEGINS!**  
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Worship Leader: Jane MacDonald
Ushers/Greeters: Gail Hoffman and Tim Voss