

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWTON

9:30 AM SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

* indicates when to rise in body or in spirit

(PH denotes *The Presbyterian Hymnal*)



Gathering in God's Name

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Rejoice, people of God: this is our Sabbath day.

People: Rejoice, friends in Christ: this is our time for worship.

Leader: God ordained the Sabbath, rest and restoration.

People: God is worthy of worship, our Creator, Healer, and Inspiration.

Leader: So then, let us worship God.

* HYMN PH 345

“Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”

*Dear Lord and Father of Mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.*

*In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word
Rise up and follow Thee.*

*O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!*

*Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.*

*Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we ask for your help, your power, your Spirit, so that we can amend our lives and grow more each day into the image of Christ.

We confess that we fear what is different. We confess that it's easier to lock the doors of our community than to receive those who don't look like we look, love like we love, or vote the way we vote. We confess that we have not lived out your call to share in abundant life and unconditional love.

We believe that you have the power to turn us around to a more inclusive way of living, so we ask you to do that. We ask you to give us the courage to change. We ask that you give us the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to be your people in all we say and do. Help us to pray and to listen...

(moment of silent reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God is gracious and merciful and knows our needs even before they reach our lips. We engage in confession, admitting to God all that rests uneasily in our hearts, and recognizing how we have been freed. Confident of God's love and trusting in God's everlasting love, let us let go of our burden and receive our forgiveness in our hearts.

People: We are forgiven. Amen.

* SONG OF JOY

447

We Are Forgiven

The musical score is written in treble clef, G major, and 3/4 time. It consists of three staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God." The chords are: G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, Dsus, D, G, Am, D7, Gsus, G, C, G, Am7, D, G.

To sing, rather than simply say, a response to the Declaration of Forgiveness has the effect of making the moment both more affirmative and more corporate. The musical repetition of the two sentences also strengthens awareness of what it means to be assured of God's pardon.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1995
Music © 1995 Hal H. Hopson

WE ARE FORGIVEN
10.8.10.8

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ 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)

Calm us now, O Lord, into a quietness that heals and listens.

Open wounded hearts to the balm of your Word. Speak to us in clear tones so that we might feel our spirits leap for joy and skip with hope as your resurrection witnesses. Amen

RESPONSIVE READING

Exodus 20:8-11

Leader: Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

People: **Work six days and do everything you need to do.
But the seventh day is a Sabbath to God, your God.**

Leader: Don't do any work—not you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your servant, nor your maid, nor your animals, not even the foreign guest visiting in your town.

People: **For in six days God made Heaven, Earth, and sea,
and everything in them; God rested on the seventh day.**

ALL: **Therefore God blessed the Sabbath day;
God set it apart as a holy day.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 15:3-6 The Message

That's exactly what Jesus did. Jesus didn't make it easy for himself by avoiding people's troubles, but waded right in and helped out. "I took on the troubles of the troubled," is the way Scripture puts it. Even if it was written in Scripture long ago, you can be sure it's written for us.

God wants the combination of his steady, constant calling and warm, personal counsel in Scripture to come to characterize us, keeping us alert for whatever he will do next.

May our dependably steady and warmly personal God develop maturity in you so that you get along with each other as well as Jesus gets along with us all. Then we'll be a choir—not our voices only, but our very lives singing in harmony in a stunning anthem to the God and Father of our Master Jesus!

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

MESSAGE Remember The Sabbath: More Than A Day Off

LITANY FOR LABOR DAY (see attached insert)

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD'S SERVICE

OFFERTORY

* SUNG RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE PH 591 "Praise God"

*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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Communion

HYMN PH 521 "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

*Refrain: You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat;
Come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.*

*As when the shepherd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
So when You call Your family, Lord, we follow and rejoice. Refrain*

*With joyful lips we sing to You our praise and gratitude
That You should count us worthy, Lord, to share this heavenly food. Refrain*

*Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare our oneness in the Lord? Refrain*

*The mystery of Your presence, Lord, no mortal tongue can tell:
Whom all the world cannot contain comes in our hearts to dwell. Refrain*

*You give Yourself to us, O Lord; then selfless let us be,
To serve each other in Your name in truth and charity. Refrain*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor continues prayer ...

“...gather us into that everlasting community and so we can join the heavenly music and that is why we sing this joyful song:”

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Pastor continues prayer ...

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pastor continues prayer ...

SHARING THE MEAL

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Unison)

**Gracious God, may we who have received this sacrament of grace
live in the unity of your Holy Spirit,
that we may show forth your gifts of love to all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who we seek to follow. Amen**

Going To Share The Good News Of Christ

* HYMN PH #470

“O Day of Radiant Gladness”

*O day of radiant gladness,
O day of joy and light,
O balm of care and sadness,
Most beautiful, most bright;
This day the high and lowly,
Through ages joined in tune,
Sing, "Holy, holy, holy,"
To the great God Triune.*

*This day at the creation,
The light first had its birth;
This day for our salvation
Christ rose from depths of earth;
This day our Lord victorious
The Spirit sent from heaven,
And thus this day most glorious
A triple light was given.*

*This day God's people, meeting,
The Holy Scripture hear;
Christ's living presence greeting,
Through bread and wine made near.
We journey on, believing,
Renewed with heavenly might,
From grace more grace receiving
On this blest day of light.*

*That light our hope sustaining,
We walk the pilgrim way,
At length our rest attaining,
Our endless Sabbath day.
We sing to You our praises,
O Father, Spirit, Son;
The Church its voice upraises
To You, blest Three in One.*

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

Ushers and Greeters: Tim Voss and Cindy Fogg
Worship Leader: Scott Hoffman

Our Staff

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Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
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Church Web Site Address: www.fpcnewtonnj.org facebook.com/FPCNJ

www.youtube.com (Search for: "fpcnewtonnj")

Liturgical Resources Include: Prayer and Assurance based on work by Beth Merrill Neel.