



Hope Held in Community

Worship - June 21, 2020

A Work in Progress

Liturgist: Sarah Belknap

Special Music: Northminster Choral Ensemble,
Elizabeth Wingate, Viola

This week we are glad to welcome the members of Stockbridge Presbyterian Church to join us for worship.

Music as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship

Welcome

Call to Worship

Break open our hearts this morning to hear your word, O God.

Let our fears be vanquished, our spirits restored!

Come and let us worship with great joy!

Let us drop the things of the past that weighed us down!

God is about to do something new in our lives!

Let God's will become strong in our lives. Amen.

Opening hymn

"God is Here!"

tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH

Glory to God #409, verses 1 and 4

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.

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 (*responsive*)

God of all righteousness, we know that the apostle Paul counted himself righteous when he carried out the law as a Pharisee, capturing the followers of Christ and sending them to prison. But when he came face to face with Jesus as Lord, his life changed. From that time on, Paul knew that he did not need to earn your love. His mission was to accept your love and to live in such a way that he could share it with others.

Forgive us, O God, when we believe that righteous behavior is needed to secure your love.

We know that we can neither earn nor deserve all that you have done for us.

Help us surrender any sense of worth that is based on performance so that, like Paul's, our lives will be centered on Jesus Christ.

Paul's newfound desire was to participate in the death and resurrection of Christ so that he could die and rise also. He urged others to do likewise.

Whatever gains we may have won in our lives, like Paul may we regard them as loss, compared to the value of knowing Christ Jesus as our Lord. This we pray in his name. Amen

Declaration of Forgiveness

The Lord has indeed done great things for us,
for our righteousness comes through faith in Christ:
our righteousness from God is based on the faithfulness of Christ.
Therefore, the good news is this:
In Jesus Christ we are accepted,
we are loved, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

First Reading - Psalm 86:1-10

The first reading is Psalm 86, verses 1-10.

Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.
Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you;
save your servant who trusts in you.
You are my God; be gracious to me, O Lord,
for to you do I cry all day long.

Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.
Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;
listen to my cry of supplication.
In the day of my trouble I call on you,
for you will answer me.

There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.
All the nations you have made shall come
and bow down before you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.
For you are great and do wondrous things;
you alone are God.

Special Music “Calm to the Waves” Bringle/Pavlechko
Northminster Choral Ensemble, Elizabeth Wingate, Viola

Children's Sermon

Second Reading - Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Meditation

Prayers of the People and 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.**

Offering

Closing hymn "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God" tune: GRAND ISLE
Glory to God #730, verses 1 and 3

I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and one was a shepherdess on the green:
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean, God helping, to be one too.

They lived not only in ages past; there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;
for the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

Benediction

Doxology -

(Vocals by Allison Kelly and Ellette Burke, cello effect on synthesizer by Jim Wingate)

*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.*