



# *First Presbyterian Church*

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 18, 2023 at 10:00

## THE CHURCH GATHERS

**Handbell Chimes** – *The ringing of the chimes invites you to a time of Rest... Renewal... Hope*

**Prelude**

Lucas Brown, piano

**Opening Sentences** (Psalm 100)

One: Let all creation sing with gladness;

**All: Make a joyful noise to the Creator!**

One: Come and abide with the One who formed us;

**All: Make a joyful noise to the Creator!**

One: Give thanks, and praise, and bless God's name;

**All: Make a joyful noise to God!**

\* **Hymn #837 (below)** "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"

\* **An Invitation to Experience God's Grace**

One: The proof of God's love is this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Assured already of God's grace and forgiveness, let us confess our sin together.

\* **Laying Down Our Burdens**

**All: Almighty God, you have promised liberation for your people, and reconciliation for all of creation. We confess that we have grown weary of waiting. We have lowered our hopes, and scaled our expectations according to the world, rather than believing in your steadfast Word. We confess that we have grown comfortable in our waiting. We cry out for justice, if it doesn't cost us too much. We want to follow Jesus, healing the sick and doing good deeds, but we don't want to be mistreated or hated. Forgive us, we pray. Give us words to speak your liberating Word and endurance to persevere until your kingdom comes. Amen.**

\* **Silent Prayer**

\* **Declaration of Forgiveness**

One: Hear the good news: God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness is promised to all generations. We are put right with God by faith. We are forgiven, freed, and at peace with God and each other through Jesus Christ. Amen.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\* **We Celebrate God's Forgiveness** #579 (see insert) *Glory Be to the Father (Gloria Patri)*

**\* Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

**Children's Message**

**Celebrating the Life of the Congregation**

*(Please sign and pass the Friendship Registers and note those sitting around you)*

**GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**All: God of wisdom, Speak again your liberating Word to us today. By the power of your Holy Spirit, poured into our hearts, make us ready and willing to respond to your call to us today. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading**

*Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7*

**18** The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on — since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

**21** The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

One: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

\* **Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles' Creed** (traditional) p. 14, *The Presbyterian Hymnal*  
**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Commissioning of Mission Trip Participants**

*To the team:*

One: Do you accept your assignment as a commission from God to go and act on his behalf? And do you accept the responsibility of representing this congregation in doing the work of Christ in Tennessee?

**Team: We do.**

One: Will you work to demonstrate Christ's teachings by loving one another and by translating Christ's message with excitement and care, turning strangers into friends and friends into brothers and sisters?

**Team: We will.**

One: Do you commit yourselves to serving faithfully on this trip in ways that bring honor and glory to God? Will you serve with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, treasuring your experiences as opportunities to learn and to grow?

**Team: We will.**

One: Scripture tells us that the prophet Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And Isaiah said, "Here am I; send me!" Today, in Haddonfield, and in Kentucky, and all around the world, God's people are hungry.

**Team: God, send me.**

One: God's people need help

**Team: God, send me.**

One: God needs someone to go in his name.

**Team: God send me.**

One: God needs someone to be a light in a dark world.

**Team: God send me.**

One: It is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Church, do you accept these people as missionaries chosen to extend our Christian love to others; and will you support them with your prayers, and with your interest when they return? If so, please say, "We will."

**Congregation: We will!**

One: Let us pray:

**All: Guiding and Loving God, set aside these people to be your hands and feet. Help them to glorify you by serving others. Protect them, teach them, and support them as they take this next step in their own journey to becoming the people you want them to be. Enable them to do their tasks faithfully and joyfully. Bring them safely home and then let their experience further enrich us, so that we too will glorify you by serving our community in the love of Christ. Amen.**

## GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer, p. 16, *The Presbyterian Hymnal*

### Practicing Abundant Generosity

<https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyteri11244/give/now>



† Offertory: "Deep River," African American spiritual arr. Marty Parks; Tanya McKenzie, flute

\* Doxology #592 (*below*) "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

\* Recommitting Our Lives to Service

## LEAVE TO SERVE

\* Hymn #275 (*below*) "God of Our Life"

\* Charge and Benediction

Sending Music

Lucas Brown, piano

*Please use the Postlude time and music to reflect on today's worship experience and how it will support you in the week to come.*

\* Please stand in body or spirit

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**WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!** It is good to have you here in person or online. Please be in touch if you have news to share or would like more information or to talk to a pastor. Staff contact information is below. Read full announcements in our weekly [email newsletter](#), available on the church website. Subscribe on the [Contact Us](#) tab.

**THE NURSERY** care is available in the Hospitality Center – across from Fellowship Hall.

**AFTER-WORSHIP HOSPITALITY IS BACK!** Linger a moment or two after the service to greet fellow worshippers. And please sign up with a friend or a group to host one Sunday by providing simple refreshments. There is a sign-up on the snack table or contact someone on the Hospitality Committee: [jmfiorella@gmail.com](mailto:jmfiorella@gmail.com), [shoemakerjanet68@gmail.com](mailto:shoemakerjanet68@gmail.com), [qlerch2@comcast.net](mailto:qlerch2@comcast.net), or [phurd75@gmail.com](mailto:phurd75@gmail.com)



† Because African American composers have not been compensated equitably for the music they have created, the Session invites you to make a donation, whenever an African American Spiritual is sung in worship. This donation goes directly to [The Essence of Harmony Choral Society](#), which focuses explicitly on celebrating the works of both classical and under-recognized African American composers.

“Deep River,” an anonymous African American spiritual, is a slow and haunting melody with emotion, hope and longing, expressing a desire for peace and freedom both in the present and in the afterlife. First mentioned in print in 1867 when it was published in the first edition of *The Story of the Jubilee Singers: With Their Songs* by J. B. T. Marsh, the song was popularized by Henry Burleigh in his 1916 collection *Jubilee Songs of the USA*. -Bud Miller

**PASTOR NIKKI LEADS SUMMER WORKSHOP SERIES-** This summer Pastor Nikki is reprising the *Summer Workshop Series*, offering topics and subjects relevant to our faith life together. The one-hour workshops take place after Sunday worship in the Hospitality Center. Light snacks will be provided as well as ample time for questions and discussion!

**First Up: Sunday June 25: ‘Prayer’**

Together we’ll look at numerous resources on prayer. A variety of prayer books will be provided to peruse, along with resource lists of noteworthy authors, and famous (and not-so-famous) prayers. Along with suggestions for leading and sustaining prayer groups, we’ll explore what scholars, pastors, and Jesus say about prayer. And finally, we’ll learn more about creating our own prayers (and praying them aloud)!

**Sunday July 16: ‘The Art and Skill of Connecting’**

**Sunday August 13: Gun Violence**

**PASTOR NIKKI’S BIBLE STUDY THURSDAYS @ 7** - Pastor Nikki is hosting a Bible Study via Zoom on the book of Genesis entitled “Genesis: Relational and Family Dynamics.” The reading schedule is linked on [the Adult Ed page](#) of the website. The Zoom link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81798184993>, and we will also meet in person at pre-determined times. Please contact Pastor Nikki if you have questions, or simply join us on Zoom!

**This year’s VBS: Operation Restoration! invites kids to be Menders in God’s world.** As they make connections between Bible stories and mending actions, they’ll discover simple ways to live out faith in daily life. Daily themes are Feed, Heal, Forgive, Pray, and Rest. Dates are **July 24-28, 2023**. Cost is \$25 per Mender, payable via Check (First Presbyterian of Haddonfield memo line: VBS), Venmo (@FPCHaddonfield), Realm, or the QR code. Register Menders at <https://bit.ly/466tnHi>. **YOUTH SHEPHERDS & ADULT VOLUNTEERS** register at <https://bit.ly/3NqB9Et>.



**2023 CHURCH OFFERING UPDATE** – Please note that target numbers on the right represent a 6-month goal, not the full year’s budget.

<b><u>Received to date</u></b>	<b><u>Six-month budget goal</u></b>	
Envelope Giving:	\$ 291,572.00	\$ 285,135.00
Loose Offering:	\$ 5,737.00	\$ 6,000.00
Per Capita:	\$ 8,555.00	\$ 8,000.00

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE 6/11/23:** 85 in person, 15 online.

**SCRIPTURE FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 25:** [Genesis 21:8-21](#)

# What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine 837

## Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

1 What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-  
 2 O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-  
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-

last-ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,  
 last-ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,  
 last-ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

*Refrain*

lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. Lean-ing, Lean-ing on Je-sus,  
 lean-ing, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean-ing on  
 Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

The composer of the tune (and creator of the refrain) asked the author of the stanzas to write a hymn based on the latter part of Deuteronomy 33:27 (as worded in the King James Version): "Underneath are the everlasting arms." Their joint effort has proved very popular.

## God of Our Life

275

SANDON 10.4.10.4.10.10

Hugh Thomson Kerr, 1916; alt. 1928

Charles Henry Purday, 1860  
Harm. John Weaver, 1986

1. God of our life, through all the cir-cling years, We trust in Thee;  
2. God of the past, our times are in Thy hand; With us a-bide.  
3. God of the com-ing years, through paths un-known We fol-low Thee;

In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, Thy hand we see.  
Lead us by faith to hope's true prom-ised land; Be Thou our guide.  
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not a-lone; Our ref-uge be.

With each new day, when morn-ing lifts the veil,  
With Thee to bless, the dark-ness shines as light,  
Be Thou for us in life our dai-ly bread,

We own Thy mer-cies, Lord, which nev-er fail.  
And faith's fair vi-sion chan-ges in-to sight.  
Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

*Text:* Copyright 1928, by F. M. Braselman; renewed 1956 by Presbyterian Board of Christian Education:  
from *The Hymnal for Youth*, published by Westminster Press.

*Music:* Harmonization © 1990 John Weaver. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Please pray for the following individuals and situations throughout the week. If you would like to add a personal prayer request, please contact one of the pastors. In making requests on behalf of others, please obtain the permission of the person needing prayer. The requestor's name will be printed as the originator of the request. Requests will be revisited every 30 days.

- Pray for the people, government, and country of **Ukraine** as war continues.
  - Pray for **Tony Gramkowski** who is recovering from heart surgery and a stroke. He is in an ICU in Boston for his care (6/14 - MB Creamer)
  - Please pray for Caroline Yount's sister **Michele** as she recovers from back surgery (6/14-pastors).
  - Please pray for **Amy and Brad Strauss**, that God would be present in their lives (6/13-pastors).
  - Please pray for **Mary Stringfellow** who was hospitalized late last week after suffering a fall (6/5-pastors)
  - Please pray for our **Stephen Ministers** who have begun new caring relationships (5/27-Stephen Leaders)
  - Prayers for the family of friends of **Anne Cooley** who passed away this week (5/26-pastors)
  - Pray for **Hepsiba** that she would receive God's protection and guidance; also pray for spiritual growth and good health (5/26-pastors)
  - Pray for **Todd** (5/24-N. Passante)
  - Lift up prayers for **Susan**, who has just been diagnosed with brain cancer and a mass in lungs. Help her to feel God's presence and strength (5/23-C. Carty)
  - Keep **Isabel Pross** in your prayers as she undergoes cancer treatment (5/23-pastors)
  - Pray for the family and friends of **Helen Brotzman** who are grieving her death and celebrating her life (5/21-pastors)
  - Prayers for the family and friends of **Dan Schwartz** who died Tuesday, May 16. Dan was an accomplished musician and longtime friend of Pete Devine and Lorraine Gormley-Devine (5/17-L. Gormley-Devine)
  - Please pray for healing for **Caroline Yount**, whose broken foot requires an extended period of no weight bearing (5/15-pastors)
  - Pray for **Armando**. God knows the needs (5/15-pastors)

## CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Marvin Lindsay, Ph.D., Senior Pastor and Head of Staff - mlindsay@haddonfieldpres.org

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