

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS  
PRELUDE

OPENING PRAYER

Loving god, you sent Jesus Christ for us, to show your power and speak the truth.  
By your grace, keep us from stumbling, so that we might enter your eternal realm;  
through Christ, teacher of righteousness. Amen.

HYMN GtG #330     Our Help is in the Name of God (Psalm 124)

**CALL to CONFESSION**                      *Ephesians 6:13*

It is only by the power of God that we are able to stand against evil.  
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**PRAYER of CONFESSION**

Merciful God, we confess that we have not followed your way.  
You rain down mercy upon us, yet we murmur in our discontent.  
You cast out the evil within us, yet we fling curses at others.  
Forgive us, God of grace.  
Call us home from our wandering, deliver our souls from death, and cover us with your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**SILENT PRAYER**

**ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS**                      *Ephesians 6:14-15*

Now stand firm in your faith, covered by the saving grace of God and ready to proclaim the  
gospel of peace.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

SHARING of the PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
*(Please share with one another a gesture, offering peace from your seat.)*

**GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to God, creator, redeemer and Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever  
shall be. Amen.

**HEARING THE WORD**

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

God of every generation, by the wisdom of your Word and the power of your Spirit, help us to  
comprehend  
the height and depth and breadth and length of your great love for us; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON             Esther 7:1–6, 9–10; 9:20-22

HYMN GtG #445             God How Can We Forgive

GOSPEL LESSON             Mark 9:38–50  
The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*On Esther & Mordecai in the Season of Peace*

TIME for REFLECTION

### **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

#### **Minute for Mission: Peace & Global Witness Offering**

#### **OFFERING of GIFTS**

*James 2:5, 14-17; 1:17, 22*

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for you have chosen the poverty of the world to make your people rich in faith. Help us to put our faith into practice, through the offering of our lives – giving food to the hungry, clothes to the naked, and shelter to the poor; all for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, your Word made flesh.

As people of faith and action let us offer our lives to the Lord. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

#### **DOXOLOGY**

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

#### **PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

*If you would like to share your joys and concerns with the congregation, please call or email the church office.*

In our trouble and need, we look to the Lord, the giver of our daily bread.  
God of abundant grace, hear our prayer.

We pray for the church.

Teach us the power of fervent prayer,  
calling on you in your sickness and suffering and singing your praise in times of joy.

We pray for the world.

Empower ordinary people to take risks for the sake of peace and justice,  
always remembering the poor and vulnerable.

We pray for our nation and for our leaders.

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom, your justice and your compassion  
all those whose decisions affect the lives of others, that all may act with integrity, honor and  
with courage.

We pray for our community and for those in need.

Bless the good that we seek to do in your name;  
help us to work together more effectively, finding common cause with all who do your will.  
When danger and distress is all around,  
show the strength of your steadfast love, and the power of your helping hand.

We pray for those who have died and for those who mourn.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ,  
and those whose faith is known to you alone.

Give comfort to those who mourn. Fill the emptiness of loss with your never-ending peace.

We pray for ourselves and for our ministries.

Lord, you have called us to serve you.

Grant that we may minister in *your* name, with *your* love in our hearts, *your* truth in our minds, *your* strength in our wills; until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace.

Generous God, as you provide for us each day, nourish and strengthen us in faith and faithfulness, so that we may share your grace in a hungry world; through Jesus Christ, the bread of life. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN GtG #645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns above

**CHARGE and BENEDECTION** *Ephesians 4:1, 4-6*

The blessing of the one God – Spirit, Son and Father – be with you now and always. Alleluia!

Lead a life worthy of your calling, giving glory to God in all things.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen! POSTLUDE

*Please call or email the church office with your prayer or pastoral care requests.*

**Please hold in your prayers:**

~ for healing and comfort: Jennifer; Anthony; Paul; Barbara; Tony; Teresa, Donna, Allana, Raymond

~ for those in their final days and their caregivers

~ for the ministries of this church and all who give of their time, talent and treasure to make them happen

~ for Luke in his new and exciting time of transitions

~ for care of creation

~ for love, care and response to needs of the elderly

~ thanksgiving for Grandparents

~ for those impacted in any way by suicide

~ for the people of Afghanistan & the people of Haiti as struggles continue

~ for people suffering the effects of climate change – storms, droughts, wildfires, floods, etc.

~ for peace in the world

~ for all of the prayers we have in our minds and in our hearts

## **Announcements**

**Sunday Worship on Zoom:** Session met on September 15<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the most recent Covid-19 statistics. The positivity rate, as reported in the [Dutchess County Covid Dashboard](#), had been more than 5% since Friday September 10<sup>th</sup>. This was our indicator to return to online worship.

We will worship **online only** for the following weeks:

September 26, 2021

October 3, 2021

October 10, 2021

October 17, 2021

As we did earlier in the year, we will send out the link to join our worship on Zoom with the bulletin by email during the week, and then make the Youtube video available to the congregation midday on Sunday for viewing at your convenience, if you are unable to join us on

Sunday morning. We will continue to mail a hardcopy of the bulletin to our members who do not have computer access in their homes and those who have requested it.

Session meets again on Wednesday 10/20/21, at which point, a decision will be made to either continue online for another month or return to in-person worship services. Please keep watch for updated information, as the pandemic seems to be quite unpredictable at this point.

To access Sunday worship on Zoom, click on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82004448057?pwd=UUh4aWV6ZUxhY3A4eDgzTWw5U0V2UT09>

To call in by phone: (929) 205-6099

Meeting ID: 820 0444 8057

Passcode: 155613

If you need assistance accessing our virtual worship services, please contact the office.

### **PLANNING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER!**

We are inviting a sampling of our congregation to complete the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT), an on-line instrument that will help us gauge the strength, vitality, and trends in our church. The information gained from this assessment will be valuable in helping the session as they make decisions about the future of the First Presbyterian Church of Wappingers Falls. Between September 9<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup>, if you have received the link to the CAT, we ask that you go online by clicking on the link provided and tell us about your experiences in and priorities for our church. *Please do not discuss the survey or your answers with others as this may influence their answers.*

If you need a paper copy, please contact the office, and we will provide one for you along with a self-addressed, stamped return envelope. ***You must answer all of the questions for the form to be submitted. Please contact the office if you need assistance with understanding the survey in order to complete it.***

If more than one person in your household received the link, please have *each* individual complete the survey.

All answers are strictly anonymous. We have no way of matching any assessment to a particular person, so please feel free to candidly share your perceptions, opinions and experiences. Our future together is dependent on your participation and honest answers.

If you have questions, please contact Lucille Holohan. She has graciously agreed to be the “point person” for this project. You can reach her at [littlelulu914@optonline.net](mailto:littlelulu914@optonline.net). You may also leave a message for her at the church office. Many thanks!

**World Communion Sunday/Peace & Global Witness Offering** – next Sunday, October 3, 2021, we will celebrate World Communion Sunday and celebrate communion with our Christian sisters and brothers around the globe. Please be prepared, prior to worship, to join our virtual communion service with bread and grape juice/wine. We will also receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Please make your donation by check or online this week. 50% of the funds collected will support denominational peacemaking programs, 25% will support programs through Hudson River Presbytery and 25% of the funds we collect will support the peacemaking program of our choice. For more information on the offering, please see the following website: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/peace-global-witness/#resources>

**Free Community Dinners:** In October, please join us on the first & fourth\* Saturdays – October 2 & 23, 2021

\*We will host an **Outdoor Craft Fair on October 16<sup>th</sup>**. We will need volunteers to staff the event and do some prep ahead of time. Please contact Staci Wagner at [srwagner625@optonline.net](mailto:srwagner625@optonline.net) if interested.

**We would love to reopen our Twice Blessed Thrift Shop.** We need some volunteers who are able to commit to weekly shifts. Interested? Contact the church office.

**Pastoral Care:**

If you would like pastoral care, please call the church office (845)297-2800 or Pastor Margery (914)539-5323. Pastoral care will be offered by appointment only.

Please let us know how else we can support your spiritual needs.

**Offering of Our Gifts and Ourselves:**

*Thank you for continuing to honor your pledges during this time.* Whether you bring it to worship, send a check to the church office by mail or make your contribution using online banking, it is important that we maintain our ability to pay our bills as we continue to navigate this disruptive time as a church community. *Thank you for your generosity!*