

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Wappinger Falls, New York

October 3, 2021 * Pentecost 19B * World Communion Sunday/Peace & Global Witness

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82004448057?pwd=UUh4aWV6ZUxFY3A4eDgzTWw5U0V2UT09>

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.

Today is a Communion Sunday – get your bread and grape juice/wine ready now!

GATHERING

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

OPENING PRAYER

We gather from the west to the east, from the south to the north,
to celebrate the God of peace who accompanies us in our acts of peace.

This God of peace accompanies us in each and every circumstance around us.

We praise God's name! Amen!

–Rev. Gloria Ulloa, Presbyterian Church of Colombia

HYMN #339 Lift Every Voice and Sing

CALL to CONFESSION

Faced with God's goodness we recognize our failings. In the knowledge of God's mercy, we dare tell the truth about ourselves and our world. In the confidence of God's children let us confess our sins.

–Armenian, Shant Agoushian, Near East School of Theology student, Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Gracious Lord, creator of this universe,
in your generosity you have given us a world of abundance and diversity,
yet we live guided by greed and selfishness.

We confess that we have defaced your creation and poisoned our environment
through our consumerist behavior and for personal gain.

In Christ, you made us brothers and sisters and intended for us to be united,
and yet we have built walls to separate us from those who are different from us.

You gave us wisdom and creativity and we have used those to trick each other
and to develop weapons of destruction and death.

You gave us laws to order our lives and we have abused them to take revenge and punish our enemies.

We love war rather than strive for peace. We ignore the poor and the weak and honored the rich and powerful. In all this we have not lived according to your will.

Forgive us, Lord, for daring to boast in our human achievements

and for failing to recognize that you alone are worthy of praise. In your mercy, forgive us our sins.

–Arabic, Jameel Maher Khadir, Near East School of Theology student, Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Holy Land

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS *Philippians 3:9; Ephesians 2:17*

“God accepted us simply because of our faith in Christ,” through whom our sins were forgiven. May he help us to continue to “preach peace to those who are near and far.” Amen.

–Armenian, Shant Agoushian, Near East School of Theology student, Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East

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

Holy Spirit, grant us openness and give us understanding of what each one of us needs to receive through Holy Scripture. When we are facing a difficult choice between the easy and the right decision, help us to choose the narrow path. We also pray for all who are about to set on an adventurous journey of faith anywhere in the world. Amen. *–Magdaléna Trgalová, Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren*

FIRST LESSON Job 1:1, 2:1–10

HYMN GtG #451 Open My Eyes that I May See

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 10:2–16
The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

TIME FOR REFLECTION

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING of GIFTS

Mark 12:41–44; 1 Samuel 2:7–8

To you, O God, we offer our lives – our abundance, our poverty, all that we have, all that we are – a sign of our great thanksgiving for the treasure of your grace. Take and use us for good in the world that you so love. With awe and wonder, hope and joy, let us present our lives to the Lord. 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.*

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

This is the table to which Jesus invites us! Let us participate joyfully!
God-planted seeds now germinate: a tree of life, an orchard bearing fruit.
Such is nature, abundant life budding, and Jesus sets the table, invites us to dine.

Water into wine, land where bread is born, a people on the path of perfect communion.

https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/specialofferings/peace_global_witness/2021/pgw21_worship_final.pdf

Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.

Lift up your hearts. Let us give thanks to our God
because it is right to give God thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O God,

You created us to love one another and to care for the world you had made.

How majestic is your name in all the earth!

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever praise the glory of your name:

Holy, Holy, Holy One, 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 our God. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Jesus came to fulfill your law and teach your faithful love.

The kingdom of God belongs to you.

Holy God, this meal which we share today celebrates your faithfulness and love.

You have shown us that nothing, not even death, can stop you from loving us. And so, we remember Jesus, and recognize your love made real in this joyous feast.

We proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

The Words of Institution

We remember, also, how on the night of his betrayal,
as he sat at the table and broke bread with his friends, he said:

“Take and eat; this is my body which is broken for you.
Remember me each time you do this.”

After they had eaten, he took the cup, and said:

“Remember me as you drink from this, for it is my life,
poured out for you – the beginning of a new relationship with God.”

Let us say together the prayer that Jesus himself taught us,
to remind us what this new relationship can be:

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup;
make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

As you have spoken to us through Jesus Christ, your Son, let our lips proclaim
your name to our sisters and brothers, so that all may know your saving grace.

Through Christ, in Christ and with Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we bless you, God of glory, now and
forever. Amen.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion Hymn

During the hymn, please share communion with members of your household.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *Isaiah 25:6-9*

God our Savior,

we give you thanks that you have prepared this feast for us – the rich feast of
our redemption. By the nourishment of this holy meal, make us more ready
for the day when you will wipe away all tears and swallow up death forever;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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.*

From every place on this planet, we turn our face to you, O God. Gather us, all your people,
together, to pray.

In the midst of the forces which would separate us, bind us in your love as the Church, together.
Strengthen us through the grace of your people gathered, no matter how we gather, with the truth
of your presence.

In a world aching to be made new, we cry out with those who suffer the pains of what powers
and principalities extract from the world’s poorest. We cry out with those suffering from illness
and disease, at whom the world turns a callous glance. We cry out with those stinging from the
sins of white supremacy.

We cry out with those seeking justice, equality, and peace — peace, at all times, in all ways.

In a world stretching toward wholeness, we celebrate with those whose lives bear the fruit of your Spirit and seek to share in your call to partnership. We celebrate with those whose efforts are making the world new. We celebrate with all who gather to earnestly seek your transforming work in the world.

Make us a world that grows into the shape of your communion table, where all are welcomed and all are fed. Make us a people who grow your family by practices of mutuality, generosity and justice. And may we be found to be witnesses, when Jesus returns, to the truth of who we were created to be — people who belong to each other, people who belong to you, O God, in your Son, Jesus. Amen.

HYMN Let There Be Peace on Earth

CHARGE and BENEDICTION *Benediction of St. Francis*

May God bless you with discomfort
at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,
so that you may live deep within your heart.
May God bless you with anger
at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,
so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.
May God bless you with tears
to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, hunger, and war
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.
And may God bless you with enough foolishness
to believe that you can make a difference in the world,
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done:
to bring justice and kindness to all our children and to the poor.

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 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. and for those who
 - have the power and authority to make changes to protect our earth; may they act with courage and justice
- ~ for peace in the world
- ~ for all of the prayers we have in our minds and in our hearts

Announcements

Holy Cow Assessment: Thank you to all who completed surveys online or on paper. The next step is for the folks at Holy Cow Consulting to review all of the answers and generate a report. We should receive it in the next week or so. Members of session and the finance committee will then meet with a consultant who will interpret the report for us so that we may use it to make decisions for our future.

Sunday Worship on Zoom: Session met on September 15th 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 10th. 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.

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World Communion Sunday/Peace & Global Witness Offering – today, October 3, 2021, we 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>
The Things That Make for Peace – Join us for a 5 week Bible Study during the “Season of Peace” this month. We will meet by way of Zoom, 7-8 PM on the following dates: September 16, 23, 29, October 6 and 14.

You can find more information

at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/biblestudy/>

The Things That Make for Peace focuses on the inner and outer path to peace as foundational to faithful discipleship.

Free Community Dinners: please join us on the fourth* Saturday – October 23, 2021

*We will host our Fall Craft Fair on October 16th. We apologize for any inconvenience.

We will host our **Fall Craft Fair on October 16th, 9 AM – 4 PM.** (That’s why we rescheduled the dinner). We will need volunteers for a variety of tasks that day and for a few days before it to prepare: staffing the food tent, our Upcycled Gift Basket table, and the Thrift Shop. We also need donations of individual packages of chips, bottled water and soda to sell and a crockpot of vegetarian chili. (We have beef and turkey already.) Please contact Staci Wagner srwagner625@optonline.net or Kathy Sorce Kathryn.Sorce@gmail.com and let them know how you can help.

We have someone willing to volunteer as manager of the Twice Blessed Thrift Shop! We need some volunteers who are able to commit to weekly shifts. Contact Kathy Sorce at kathryn.sorce@gmail.com.

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!*

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Reverend Margery A. Rossi, CRE

Pastor

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