

NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Staying Connected in Christ

11:00 am Online Worship, Sunday, September 27, 2020

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Prelude in B Major, Op. 99, No. 2

Camille Saint-Saëns
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. David Renwick

CALL TO WORSHIP

Acts 8:4-6, 8

Because of the persecution, believers in Jesus were scattered
and went from place to place proclaiming the word.

A disciple named Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them.

The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip.

So there was great joy in that city.

Let us worship God together!

HYMN *please sing!*

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Diademata

1. Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.
2. Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky can fully bear the sight,
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.
3. Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet
Fair flowers of Paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dr. Quinn Fox

Almighty God, we bow before your great majesty and worship you in this holy place.

We come into your house depending on the multitude of your mercies.

Hear our humble petitions as we call to you, as we stand before your mercy seat.

Let your eyes be open, and let your ears be attentive to the confession of sin
we make in this holy place.

Let your Name be glorified in us, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lancelot Andrewes, 1555-1626
Anglican Bishop and translator of the King James Bible

SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the good news of the Gospel. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *please sing!*

Diademata

Crown him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me:
Thy name shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Dr. Quinn Fox

Baptismal Questions

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

Through baptism we enter the covenant God has established. Within this covenant God gives us new life, guards us from evil, and nurtures us in love. In embracing that covenant, God claims us as his own, as we choose to serve God by turning from evil and turning to Jesus Christ.

Baptism

Beau Francis Bailey

Son of Heather Bryant Bailey and Bradley Rolison Bailey

Prayer of Response

SCRIPTURE

Acts 4-8 (Selected verses)

Deacons: Renee Dragics, Serge Nya and Bryan Smith

Acts 4

¹While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, ²much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead. ³So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who heard the word believed; and they numbered about five thousand.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Acts 5

But a man named Ananias, with the consent of his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property; ²with his wife's knowledge, he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles' feet. ³"Ananias," Peter asked, "*why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land?*" ⁴*While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, were not the proceeds at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You did not lie to us but to God!*" ⁵Now when Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard of it.

¹⁴Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women, ¹⁵so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he came by. ¹⁶A great number of people would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

¹⁷Then the high priest took action; he and all who were with him (that is, the sect of the Sadducees), being filled with jealousy, ¹⁸arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. ¹⁹But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, and brought them out.

Acts 6

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Greek speaking Jewish Christians (called Hellenists) complained against the Hebrew speaking Christians because their widows were being neglected in *the daily distribution of food*. ²And "the twelve" called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "*It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables*. ³*Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task,* ⁴*while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.*"

⁵What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose *Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch*.

⁶They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen.

⁵⁸They dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

Acts 8

And Saul approved of their killing him. That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria. ⁴Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word. ⁵Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. ⁸So there was great joy in that city.

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Troubles Within, Troubles Without

Dr. Renwick

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S GRACE AND CALL

CHORAL RESPONSE

St. Magnus

The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glory now;
a royal diadem adorns the mighty victor's brow.
The joy of all who dwell above, the joy of all below
to whom he manifests his love, and grants his name to know.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles’ Creed

Dr. Joyce Emery

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.

PASTORAL PRAYER 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 OF TITHES AND GIFTS

None Other Lamb

Craig Courtney

None other Lamb, none other Name, none other Hope in heav'n or earth or sea,

None other hiding place from guilt and shame, None beside thee.

My faith burns low, my hope burns low; only my heart's desire cries out in me,

By the deep thunder of its want and woe cries out to thee.

Lord, thou art life, tho' I be dead; love's fire thou art, however cold I be:

Nor heav'n have I, nor place to lay my head, nor home but thee.

Christina Rossetti

DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;

praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN *please sing!*

Lift High the Cross

Crucifer

Refrain

Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim

Till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
The Lamb victorious, Christ the Son of God. **Refrain**
2. Each newborn servant of the Crucified
Bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died. **Refrain**
3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
Your death has brought us life eternally. **Refrain**
4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory. **Refrain**

BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens
Mr. Fickley

Let's Stay Connected!

Announcements for You

Farewell to Interim Associate Pastor Rev. Dr. Joyce M. Emery today

How do we say farewell to a beloved interim pastor in these COVID times? The Care Council invites you to send Joyce a note or make an appointment with her. Phone appointments can be arranged by emailing lmartin@nationalpres.org. This is such an unusual farewell, but we know that pastor Joyce will make these moments times of joy! If you would like to contribute to a love gift for Pastor Joyce, [please click here](#).

Connect LIVE on Zoom

Immediately following online worship, you are invited to a casual virtual gathering where you can "pass the peace of Christ" with others and enjoy conversation. To join in, simply click the "Connect LIVE" button above the livestream window after the service.

Prayer LIVE

Would you like to pray with a live person after worship? Please call 12-1 pm. A Pastor, Stephen Minister, or Deacon will be prepared to take your call. If all lines are busy, please leave a voicemail with your name and number and you will receive a return call. Phone: (202) 800-9121.

Your Giving and Commitments Make a Difference: Thank you!

Faith Giving	\$ 1,736,000
Facility Use Income	\$ 711,000
Other Income	\$ 583,000
Total Income	\$ 3,030,000
Total Expenses	\$ 3,175,000
Balance	\$ (145,000)

Not yet made a gift online or by phone? Go to nationalpres.org/giving or text "NPC" to 77977.

Floral Dedication

The flowers this morning are offered by Denise and David Zweifel in gratitude for the prayers of the congregation and the loving care of the Deacons.

Prayers

We grieve the death of Dixie Falvey on September 11, 2020.

We grieve the death of Steve Watkins on September 11, 2020.

We grieve the death of Ann James On September 14, 2020.

Please pray for [Forman Christian College](#) in Lahore, Pakistan, and for its witness to coexistence of people of different religions.

Mission Gifts for Christmas is just around the corner! Though we won't be able to meet in Stone Hall for the Christmas Party this year, you can still sponsor ministries around the world that need our generosity at Christmas. Please fill out [this form](#) to nominate a ministry.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the food drive! As a church, we collected 4,000 pounds of food and two pallet-sized boxes full of paper goods and diapers for Central Union Mission. We collected 300 pounds of food for the healthy food pantry run by our neighbors at the University of the District of Columbia. And we were able to give food out to ten families in person on Saturday!

Report of Congregational Meeting Vote

At the NPC congregational meeting on September 20, two motions were presented. We apologize that the plan for more than one person to be able to vote on the same device did not work at this meeting -- and are grateful for your patience as we adjust to new tools for working together online. We do not believe that the outcome was affected by this problem.

The first motion regarding amended terms of call for Rev. Marsh passed with a vote of 342 in favor, 3 opposed, and 3 abstentions.

The second motion to call Rev. Katie Francis as Associate Pastor passed with a vote of 344 in favor, 3 opposed, and 1 abstention. [Please click here to read her introduction.](#)

COVID is just plain hard!

We are in this together. The Care/Connections staff have prepared resources to use during this time. Use them on your own or share with a friend. Feeling Isolated? Grieving? Anxious? Needing to have a hard conversation with someone? Find these resources on the [Care webpage](#) or contact [Liz Martin](#) or [Leslie Saum](#).

Re-gathering Volunteers Needed

Step one to re-gathering is to recruit and train volunteers to act as greeters, guides and ushers.

If you would like to help please [click here](#) to fill in the form, and we will be in touch.

Learn & Grow

Wednesday Faith Connection

Wednesdays, 7-7:45pm ET

You are invited to join us on our [Worship Live page](#) as Dr. Renwick explores Paul's Letter to the Galatians.

Adult, Children & Youth Sunday School

You are invited to join us! You can check out our options for each group here:

- [Adult Sunday School info](#)
- [Children Sunday School info](#)
- [Youth Sunday School info](#)

Come and Add Your Prayer Stone

We welcome everyone to visit the [new Prayer Pathway of Hope](#) display here on the NPC campus (at the Van Ness St. entrance). You can write a prayer on stones provided, and place with others' prayers as you meditate on a tranquil pathway of hope-filled Scriptures. Questions? Please email LSaum@Nationalpres.org or call 202-537-7494.