

Additional Scripture Passages – June 28, 2020

Psalm 72

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.

² May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.

³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.

⁵ May he live^[a] while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.

⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

⁸ May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

⁹ May his foes^[b] bow down before him,
and his enemies lick the dust.

¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts.

¹¹ May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.

¹² For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.

¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.

¹⁵ Long may he live!

May gold of Sheba be given to him.
May prayer be made for him continually,
and blessings invoked for him all day long.

¹⁶ May there be abundance of grain in the land;
may it wave on the tops of the mountains;
may its fruit be like Lebanon;

and may people blossom in the cities
like the grass of the field.

¹⁷ May his name endure forever,
his fame continue as long as the sun.
May all nations be blessed in him;^[c]
may they pronounce him happy.

¹⁸ Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

¹⁹ Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may his glory fill the whole earth.

Amen and Amen.

²⁰ The prayers of David son of Jesse are ended.

Matthew 25:31-34

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;

Acts 4:23-31

²³ After they were released, they went to their friends^[g] and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ When they heard it, they raised their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and everything in them,

²⁵ it is you who said by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant:^[a]

‘Why did the Gentiles rage,
and the peoples imagine vain things?

²⁶ The kings of the earth took their stand,
and the rulers have gathered together
against the Lord and against his Messiah.’^[b]

²⁷ For in this city, in fact, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, gathered together against your holy servant^[c] Jesus, whom you anointed, ²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. ²⁹ And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants^[d] to speak your word with all boldness, ³⁰ while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant^[e] Jesus.” ³¹ When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.

THE COURT OF FLAGS

The Court of Flags was designed as an extended central narthex. It serves as an area for the choir to assemble before the worship service processional and also an area where the clergy can greet parishioners – both without disrupting the flow of the congregation in and out of the Nave. Central to this space are two elements of the church historic design.

Imbedded in the terrazzo floor, at the center is the Great Seal of the Presbyterian Church which was in use at the time of the construction of the building. In the center is the Celtic Cross, representing Presbyterianism and its roots in Scottish heritage. In the upper left hand portion of the design is a burning bush, representing God's appointment of Moses to lead his people; In the upper right a dove recalls the coming of the Holy Spirit on Jesus following his baptism; in the lower right the open bible proclaiming God's word and at the lower left the cross planted on an orb signifying God's rule over us all.

Mounted above in the two story section are 72 flags representing nations having Reformed and Presbyterian Churches and who are members of the World Alliance of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches. The flags are displayed clockwise in alphabetical order beginning with Algeria and ending with Zambia. Installed during the dedication in 1970 some of these flags represent countries no longer in existence. But the flags are retained for the historical context in which they were conceived – nations representing Presbyterians world-wide.

The 21-foot 65 light brass chandelier, hanging in the midst of this space was originally designed for the former church [Church of the Covenant] on Connecticut Avenue. During the construction of that building Sunday School children contributed pennies, nickels and dimes to a fund to support the purchase of this chandelier and through their collective donations in 1887, the children, contributed \$748.00 -- the cost of this fixture. It was removed from the old church during demolition, taken to New York City where it was dismantled, cleaned and restored with new wiring and returned here in time for the dedication in 1970.

Outside the doors at the left is the cornerstone wall which was unveiled by President Eisenhower on his birthday -- October 15th of 1967, in a special ceremony attended by members of the church and various other invited guests.

During the National Building Campaign various items and areas of the main building were designated at "naming rights – contribution locations" The Court of Flags was one of these and W. Clement Stone and his foundation [www.wcstonefnd.org] gave funds for this area of the church. A plaque on the South wall of the space indicates that contribution.

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