

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship



A child looks and wonders by Joanna Nord

So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. --John 21:11

First Presbyterian Church

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MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT: REV. DR. SANDRA R. TICE

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PASTOR EMERITUS: REV. JAMES C. HUFFSTUTLER

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: CURTISS ALLEN, JR., DIRECTOR OF MUSIC;

WILLIAM ZEITLER, ORGANIST; AMY GANO, BELLS

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church

This service is being **livestreamed** and can be viewed on our YouTube channel in real time or as a recording. **Large-print copies of this order of service**, as well as **audio enhancement devices** are available **from the ushers**.

We gather on Sunday for 3 reasons:

- **To seek God**- whom we find in sacred text and sacrament, in music and in song, in prayer, in the beauty of this space, in the stillness where we can hear our hearts. We offer God our thanks and praise, our lament and longing, and our resources. We let go of burdens and receive grace and forgiveness. We see the One our hearts love.
- **To practice Community** – rejoice w/those who rejoice, weep w/those who weep. To break bread with those whom we love and those whom we need to love more fully. We practice things our culture does not emphasize: resting, forgiving, sharing. Jesus asked us to love one another as he loved us, and we cannot do so without practice.
- **To listen for our Call**- often an invitation to go out and be or do or remember. God is speaking all the time: through conscience, nature, friends, and certainly scripture. We gather to listen for that Call and to recommit ourselves to discipleship.

Information on our common life can be found on our website www.fpcsb.net, along with sermons and newsletters. You can participate in our work by supporting us financially with a one-time or sustaining donation.

Children are **welcome** in worship. Younger children may go to the Nursery at any time.

OUR NEXT COMMUNION will be Sunday, June 4th.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Dawn Morris

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

In the state of wonder that awe produces, our thought is more rigorous and energized. As one historical example, Isaac Newton and René Descartes were both awestruck by rainbows. In wonder, they asked: How is it that rainbows form when the sun's light refracts through water molecules? What is the precise angle that produces this effect? What does this say about light and our experience of color? This wonder over rainbows led these two scholars to some of their best work on mathematics, the physics of light, color theory, and sensation and perception.

--Dacher Keltner, *Awe*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Toccata in F D. Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Allow the music to usher you into sacred space and time.

INTROIT

*From the Rising of the Sun*¹

Eric H. Thiman

From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same, the Lord's name be praised. The Lord's name be praised.

*EASTER ACCLAMATION

This is the good news—

The grave is empty, Christ is risen.

✠ Alleluia! Amen!

This is the Good News- the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never put it out.

✠ Alleluia! Amen!

This is the Good News – Our doubts and our fears
are no barrier to Christ, let us worship God!

✠ Alleluia! Amen!

*HYMN 15

All Creatures of Our God and King

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

† The symbols you will see in this order of worship mean:

* Stand if you are able

✠ The congregation will read.

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***PRAYER of ADORATION²**

✘ Jesus Christ, you meet us, and we are in awe!
In spite of our despair,
In the midst of our tears,
you come to us and offer us peace.
Help us this day, to hear your voice,
to see your face,
to wonder at your sudden appearance
and to recognize your love
as surely as Peter did. Amen.

(We stand and sing Alleluia)

***ALLELUIA**

William Zeitler

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

TIME with the CHILDREN

[Children are always welcome in worship. After the time with Children, we invite our children ages 4 to 11 to go to KidSpace in Room 11. Parents, please pick your children up immediately following worship. Infants through pre-Kindergarten may go to the Nursery at any time.]

ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth

Conrad Kocher

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies; *Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.* For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light: *Lord of all ...* For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight, for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: *Lord of all ...* For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Lord of all ...* For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given; for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven: *Lord of all ...*

SCRIPTURE John 21:1-17

New Testament, p. 115

SERMON

Dr. Sandy Tice

***REFRAIN 635** *Laudate Dominum*³ *Jacques Berthier*

✘ **Laudate Dominum, laudate Dominum omnes gentes, alleluia!**
Laudate Dominum, laudate Dominum omnes gentes, alleluia!

MINUTE for MISSION

Nancy Horstmann

THE OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

(We offer our tithes and gifts to be part of God's purposes in the world, and we invite you to take part. You may bring forward your gifts and place them in the plate. You may always send gifts by mail or online.)

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

✘ **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye Heavenly Host:
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE, OUR 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.

***HYMN 726**

Will You Come and Follow Me

KELVINGROVE

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE**

Sevenfold Amen

John Stainer, 1873

POSTLUDE

Improvisation

William Zeitler

(For health reasons we are not greeting at the door)

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GREETERS: Meryll Davis, Susan Skoglund

USHERS: Brad Smith, *Lead Usher*

Jim Siegmund, Al Rueda, *Security Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Charlene Peterson, Beverly Snell

Elders: Alex Smith, Tim Usher, Mary Bolaños

Deacons: Robin Edwards, Rick Rodriguez

This Weeks' Birthdays

May 23 Jim Morris

May 24 Trinity Conley

Penny Ramirez

May 27 Jenna Garza Schneider

NEEDLES & NURTURE. Come to Fireside Lounge next Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. and bring your needles (knitting or crochet) and yarn. Enjoy some time in the company of others who enjoy creative work. Contact Stephanie Fletcher if you have any questions.

VOLUNTEER FOR HOSPITALITY. We have returned to serving coffee and tea and donuts for coffee hour after church, but we need volunteers to pick up the donuts, set up, serve and clean up. If you can help out with any of the tasks for this important ministry, please speak to Rick Rodriguez or Dave Thomas. Whether you want to do this once a month or once a year, your help is appreciated!

More news and announcements are available in your Friday *Keeping in Touch* emails. If you are not receiving these, and you would like to, contact Mimi in the church office.

The Music Box

Last week I mentioned Sepphoris — a city about 4 miles from Nazareth — which was a major urban-renewal and pet project of Herod. The excavated areas at Sepphoris have so far yielded public buildings and baths, residential areas, an amphitheater, market building, industrial installations, cisterns, and a complex drainage system. Sepphoris was built on a hill, and was visible for miles. (As Jesus said, "A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.") Two aqueducts flowed from springs at Abel three Roman miles to the east supplying the city with water.

Meanwhile, Nazareth in those days was little more than a wide-spot in the road, with an estimated population of 500. (Sepphoris more like 10,000 to 25,000.) I speculated that Joseph and Jesus might have walked to Sepphoris where employment was plentiful. Roughly an hour walk each way — many modern folks have commutes worse than that!

Sepphoris was also a center of Jewish academic study — many academies were located there. Also, its location on or near major trade routes in the lower Galilee made it a prime market for traders of all commodities. It was, for most of its flourishing years, a thriving city with a large enough population to require a great variety of different products. Indeed, the rabbinical scholars who helped compile the Talmud and Mishna frequently earned their living by working in humble occupations — day laborers, stone masons, carpenters, shoemakers, potters and smiths among them.

And Sepphoris has another interesting claim to fame. Glass working in general goes back to the dawn of human history (glass beads and such), but glass blowing was invented in Syria in the first century BCE. It so happens that Sepphoris was a major center of glass manufacture!

So it occurs to me that when Jesus and His disciples were given the use of an 'upper room' for Passover, that we don't know how nice it was. Maybe it was on the upscale end of things for that day and age. Maybe the cup supplied with the that room, used for the Last Supper, was glass.

In a way such speculations are silly. The observation that it's plausible that the cup Jesus used for the Last Supper was glass has no theological implications that I can think of.

But I also think that this sort of imaginative exercise has value. Every major innovation in the history of humanity began as an idea. Einstein's Relativity famously began when Albert daydreamed "what would the world look like if I could ride a beam of light?" Or Martin Luther King: "I have a
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dream." Or countless other insights where someone was paying attention and noticed something: "What's this mold on this bread?", brought their intelligence and imagination to bear, and now we have penicillin. Science isn't just about observation, it's about Imagination + Intelligence + Observation.

Humanity has always faced problems that need solving. But some periods seem to have more problems that need solving than others, and it seems to me we are in one of those periods. For a new solution, we first have to Imagine – and Believe – that a solution is possible. In this context, Imagination and Faith are very close to each other. And once we have that Faith/Imagination that a solution is possible, THEN we can start imagining what actual solutions might be.

But imagination is a skill, a 'muscle' like most any other that gets better with use and practice. Of course, like every other skill, some folks have a greater knack for it than others. Tiger Woods clearly has a 'knack' for golf. But he wouldn't be a world-class golfer without practice beyond imagining. Imagination is a skill that can be developed with practice too.

Indeed, Imagination has been enshrined as a "Spiritual Practice"! Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556) promoted the 'meditative' practice of fully imagining the Gospel stories, putting yourself in the scene, imaginatively engaging all your senses to fully immerse yourself in the Gospel story: Jesus is speaking to a blind man at the side of the road. We feel the hot Mediterranean sun beating down. We smell the dust kicked up by the passersby. We feel the itchy clothing we're wearing, the sweat rolling down our brow, a rumble of hunger. We see the desperation in the blind man's face and hear the wail of hope in his words. We note the irritation of the disciples. And so on...

And so I see notions like 'what if the cup at the Last Supper was glass' purely as exercises, as practice strengthening the muscle of the Imagination, so that when we really need it, our Imagination will be up to the challenge.

--William Zeitler

What else to do but fish?
To put out once again into the deep.

Attempting to relive the moment we first met
when life became abundant with potential.

Busyness is all. It takes away the ache of scenes
replayed each night in restless sleep.

We work, caught up in our own thoughts,
but sullen swell of sea still drags me down.

I cannot walk on water, fish for men;
however hard I trawl, I harvest nothing.

Morning sends uncertain light; instinctively
I wait to hear the crow of dawn announcing failure.

But this day brings the quiet rush of pebbles on the shore,
caught up in patterns more immense than they.

And suddenly it starts again, the second chance, replayed from the
beginning -
all life around me teems with possibilities once more.
The sun breaks through the mist; I hurl myself into the sea
not caring if I sink or swim - to reach you is my only aim.

You stand there, on the edge of life, calling out against the empty
fears of night;
I run to you, we sit around the flames, we eat and talk.

Three times you ask, and three times I respond;
there is new strength in each reply.

I feel you woven through my life,
know that even on strange shores you will be there.

I gather nets into my hands, they will not break.
Tomorrow I will fish again.

-- Lisa Debney, Fire and Bread