

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Twenty-first Sunday of Ordinary Time

A Service by the Congregation of Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church

August 23, 2020

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Even from a place of exile, from a position of despair, we trust, O God, in your power: to return and restore us, to enliven and empower us, to soothe and to save us. We wait for you, O God, attentive and hopeful, for with you, deliverance is always possible. In Christ, we pray. Amen

Prelude

Peace Like a River

Joe Utterback
Sara Hoey, Organ

WELCOME AND POURING OF WATER

Rev. Eileen Lindner

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Jim McGuire

We give thanks to God with our whole heart

We give thanks for God's steadfast love and faithfulness!

Though high above all things, God sees the lowly and even when we are in deep trouble,

God makes us live again. The love of God lasts forever!

HYMN

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear,

now to his temple draw near;

join me in glad adoration!

**Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!**

Hast thou not seen

how thy desires e'er have been

granted in what he ordaineth?

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Patient God, we come again to admit that we have honored you with our lips while our hearts were far away. We have taught doctrines from our own limited understanding and held fast to our human traditions as if they embodied your will. We are truly sorry for the many ways we have destroyed and defiled your creation. We ask for your forgiveness and the opportunity for new beginnings. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The steadfast love of the Lord never ends. When we call out to God, God answers.
God saves us with a strong and outstretched hand.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and helped to live in grace. Amen

RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen
sound from his people again;
gladly for aye we adore him.

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

This is the Gospel of Christ!
Praise to you, O Christ!

Anthem *As the Deer Pants*

Nystrom
Susan Beltran, Soloist

HEBREW TESTAMENT LESSON *Exodus 1:15-2:10*

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ‘When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.’ But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, ‘Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?’ The midwives said to Pharaoh, ‘Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.’ So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, ‘Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.’

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. ‘This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,’ she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, ‘Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?’ Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Yes.’ So the girl went and called the child’s mother. Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.’ So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, ‘because’, she said, ‘I drew him out of the water.’

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Stayin’ Alive

Rev. Eileen Lindner

CHORAL RESPONSE *How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord*

**In what you give us, Lord, to do,
together or alone,
in old routines and ventures new
may we not cease to look to you,
the cross you hung upon—
all you endeavored done.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN

The Church of Christ in Every Age

**The church of Christ in every age,
beset by change but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.**

**Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.**

**We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord:
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread Christ's liberating word.**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Marche

Lachner
Sara Hoey, Organ