

# WELCOME TO THE PACKANACK COMMUNITY CHURCH

*"Putting God's Love In Motion"*

120 Lake Drive East, Wayne, NJ

September 27, 2020

10:00 AM

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST

CELEBRATE MIRACLES

[www.packanack.com](http://www.packanack.com)

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973-694-0608



Photo by Maurice Paul Obonyo

*God helps us find unity and joy in the bonds of Christian love.*

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## PRELUDE

Meditation on ST. LEONARDS  
("May The Mind of Christ My Savior")

Daniel Mullens

tune: A. Barham-Gould (1891-1953)

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING PRAYER

**Holy Giver of life and love, you work in us and around us and through us.  
As you travelled among the Israelites on their way from slavery to freedom,  
you gave them water from the rock when they were thirsty.  
As you walked among the people in Jerusalem,  
you healed the sick and taught through parables and stories.  
As you move in and through our worship today, you offer yourself to us and to all the world.  
Unite us in love and service, that we may bless the world in the name of Jesus,  
who teaches us what it means to do your will. Amen.**

## THE BOOK OF EXODUS

**Exodus 17:1-7**

*Water From the Rock*

<sup>1</sup>The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?" <sup>3</sup>But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" <sup>4</sup>Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The Lord answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>And he called the place Massah<sup>[a]</sup> and Meribah<sup>[b]</sup> because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

## Philippians 2:1-13

*Imitating Christ's Humility*

<sup>2</sup>Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup>then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup>not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. <sup>5</sup>In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature <sup>[a]</sup>God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup>rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature<sup>[b]</sup> of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! <sup>9</sup>Therefore God

exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*Do Everything Without Grumbling*

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup>for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

## **SERMON**

Grumbling and Grace

Rev. Lauri J. Craig

## **MUSICAL OFFERING**

Water Medley

Daniel Mullens

arr. Mullens

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Lord, in Your Mercy,

**Hear Our 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.**

## **\*PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

**God of overflowing abundance, when your people suffered from thirst,  
you brought water from a rock to satisfy their need.**

**From the rock of your love, Holy One our blessings flow like ever-flowing streams.**

**Receive our thanks and praise for your many gifts.**

**Receive, too, our hearts, our hands, our dreams, our industry, and our love.**

**May our gifts draw us closer to you and to one another,  
that we might all share the love and the mind of Christ. Amen.**

## **\*BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

Daniel Mullens

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*\* If you can do so comfortably, you are invited to stand for these portions of the service.*

## **SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GUEST PREACHER THIS MORNING: REV. LAURI J. CRAIG**

Rev. Lauri J. Craig is an ordained UCC minister who, though recently retired, still serves on the NJ Association Commission on Ministry. She and her husband Bob and their beloved yellow Lab, Leah, have lived in Pearl River, NY for the last few years. While not serving a church in the last 2 years, she has found a "new form of ministry" - as she has been learning to play the harp for healing and hope in Medical facilities and independent living centers and in churches. She also began teaching adults to play the 'therapy harp' for almost 3 years and loves to experience the life changing "aha" moments when learning music and offering music to others resonates with her students. She is also the proud mother of a daughter and son and the proud grandma of Ryan and Katie Craig!

## **OUR MISSION**

The Packanack Community Church is an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ called to "Put God's Love in Motion" by living our faith beyond the walls of our Sanctuary.

We seek to help one another discover our God-given gifts so  
we can have greater meaning, purpose and direction in our lives.

We work to bring hope, peace, joy and love to other people through ministries of mercy and justice  
with a spirit of gratitude for all our blessings and a vision of caring for one another's needs.