

WELCOME TO THE PACKANACK COMMUNITY CHURCH
“Putting God’s Love In Motion”
120 Lake Drive East, Wayne, NJ

October 11, 2020
10:00 AM
NINETEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
CELEBRATE

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Photo by Mat Brown from Pexels

*If anything is excellent . . . if any thought is admirable . . .
if any course of action is holy and pure, righteous, and true . . .
focus your mind on these things, and God will bring you peace.*

PRELUDE

Spirit of Gentleness

Daniel Mullens
James K. Manley (b. 1940)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

**Heavenly God, we come to you today
ready to rejoice and praise your holy name.
Remind us of your greatness
and of how much you continue to do for us.
In your wonderful and excellent name, we pray. Amen.**

Exodus 32:1-14

The Golden Calf

¹When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods[a] who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.” ²Aaron answered them, “Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.” ³So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. ⁴He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, “These are your gods,[b] Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.” ⁵When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord.” ⁶So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry. ⁷Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. ⁸They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, ‘These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’ ⁹“I have seen these people,” the Lord said to Moses, “and they are a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.” ¹¹But Moses sought the favor of the Lord his God. “Lord,” he said, “why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.’” ¹⁴Then the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Matthew 22:1-14

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

¹Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. ⁴“Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵“But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. ⁶The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ⁹So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ ¹⁰So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹²He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless. ¹³“Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

SERMON

Rev. Alice Batchner

Right People? Right Actions?

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

Holy God, we offer these gifts as a show of our gratitude and gratefulness.

Bless these gifts, that others may also see how gracious and how wonderful you are. Amen.

*BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL OFFERING

The Times They Are A-Changin' / Turn! Turn! Turn!

Daniel Mullens

Bob Dylan / Pete Seeger, arr. Mullens

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

Angel Cabello & Melissa Kaus have placed the flowers on the altar in celebration of their upcoming wedding anniversary on October 20th & the marriage of their niece Erin Kaus to Sam Wilmes on October 16th.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GUEST PREACHER THIS MORNING: REV. ALICE BATCHER

A graduate of Union Theological Seminary in NYC, Rev. Alice was ordained by the American Baptist Churches USA. Later she sought privilege of call with the United Church of Christ. Alice has served as a local Pastor, and has done much Pulpit Supply for UCC and Presbyterian churches on Long Island and New Jersey. For the last year and a half, Alice's weekday job has been as a Hospice Chaplain in Southern New Jersey. When not at work, Alice has been primarily sheltering in place with her two little dogs.

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.