

Worship @ Home Guide. Woodstock Presbyterian Church. August 30, 2020

Today would have been WPC's annual Picnic in the Park service. The worship reflects rest and rejuvenation in God's creation. There is time for *Readying* – preparing our hearts for praise and prayer, *Reading* – hearing God's Word, *Reflection* – on what the Word means for us today, *Response* – how we will act with God, and *Return* – our going into the world as those who are Sent.

+Pastor Kate

Special Thanks to:

The Work of the People; Tuscarora PC Quartet: Don Cook, pianist; Michelle Fox, David Hearn, John Cushwa, and Jeanie Cushwa, quartet; with special thanks to Sharon Manor, choir director, and Jessica Manor for putting it together.

READYING

CALL TO WORSHIP – Amos 5:23-24

Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
²⁴ But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

HYMN – Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken

- 1. Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God!
He, whose Word cannot be broken,
Formed thee for His own abode;
On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou mayst smile at all thy foes.*
- 2. See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove:
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst t' assuage?
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,
Never fails from age to age.*

PRAYERS

Lord,

we call out to you as a people who have proclaimed our trust in your reforming grace,

but who have been revealed as creatures of habit, exhausted by the changes in and around us. We yearn to be the solid rock – the unmoving foundation, stable in the midst of chaos. Instead, we feel like pebbles, tossed by the raging currents, and uncertain of our own footing, let alone able to be an anchor for others.

Death is at our door, injustice has been exposed in our communities, deep divisions in our newsfeeds... Sorrow and loss do not wait for us to be ready. No longer can we offer “hope” from the comforts of our sanctuaries or our well-appointed offices. No longer can we comfort with a touch or a smile. We are shaken both by the devastation and the necessity to learn to minister in another way. We are disoriented, discouraged, and exhausted.

We call out in our confusion, desperation, and despair – Lord, be our refuge and strength!

And here we remember what has always been true – the refuge and strength has always been yours to give – not ours.

Return us to You. Restore our faith.

Give us life and courage.

Soothe and save us.

Turn our sorrow into joy,

And our desperation into desire for your grace.

In Christ we pray, Amen.

READING – Genesis 1

REFLECTION

“and God saw that it was good.”

Reflect on yourself as a part of Creation. How do you feel connected to the Creator through Creation? How do you feel set apart? Take time this week to enjoy what God calls “good”, and to claim yourself as part of what is “very good”.

RESPONSE

How does your every day life reflect your faith? How are you called to respond?

HYMN

The Church of Christ Cannot be Bound

***The Church of Christ cannot be bound
by walls of wood or stone.***

***Where charity and love are found,
there can the church be known.***

***True faith will open up the door
and step into the street.***

***True service will seek out the poor
and ask to wash their feet.***

***True love will not sit idly by
when justice is denied.***

***True mercy hears the homeless cry
and welcomes them inside.***

***If what we have, we freely share
to meet our neighbor's need,
then we extend the Spirit's care
through ev'ry selfless deed.***

***The church of Christ cannot be bound
by walls of wood or stone.***

***Where charity and love are found,
there can the church be known.***

RETURN

Go in peace...