

The Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair

Sunday, May 15, 2022

*If you are able, please stand.



10:00 a.m.

Please turn off cell phones.

WE GATHER AROUND GOD'S WORD

"I need a place to confess that I don't have everything figured out. Christianity is not a program for avoiding mistakes... There is no "right" or perfect way to be. We learn from our mistakes; we extend grace to others and ourselves."

~ Nadia Bolz-Weber

† † † † †

Prelude

Anne Marie Juliano

Introit

Chancel Choir

***Call to Worship**

The Rev. Lauren Scharstein

One: Queens and kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

**All: Young men and women alike,
older and younger together!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;

God's glory is above earth and heaven.

God's love is personal and infinite;

Let us give our thanks and our worship as one people!

***Opening Hymn 401**

Here in this Place

Gather Us In

Invitation to Worship and Confession

Graham Bridgeman

The chaos of our world confuses us and leads us astray.

Let us return to the clarity God can provide through our prayer of confession.

Prayer of Preparation and Confession (unison)

Eternal God, you offer us the free gift of abundant life, but we so often refuse to see you at work in our everyday lives. Instead of basing our self-worth on your grace, which is new every day, we falsely separate into clean and unclean, right and wrong, good and bad—trying in vain to make ourselves feel superior.

God of hard truths and gentle forgiveness, you call us to love one another and make more space at the table of belonging. Forgive our exclusion and judgment. Forgive our willingness to ignore your grace—in others and in ourselves. Cleanse us of anything and everything that distorts your truth, and hear now our honest admission of who we are.

our silent prayers of preparation and confession

The 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.**

Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

***We Give God Glory**

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen. (sing 3 times)
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

Welcome & Life of the Church

Pastor Greg Horn

(Please fill out the Friendship Pad completely and pass it along.)

The Sacrament of Baptism (insert)

Luke Marshall Freedman
Andrew Hendrik Rowley
Ingrid Thiel Keathley
Harrison Thiel Keathley

Introduction

Presentation

Elder Eric Noren

Questions to Those Baptized and to the Church Family

The Apostles' Creed (insert)

The Act of Baptism

The Welcome

***Baptism Hymn 482**

Baptized in Water

Bunessan

Time for Children

(All children are invited forward.)

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading (p.7 of NT) – **Matthew 6:9-13** (NRSV)

Gary Diamante

⁹ “Pray, then, in this way:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

¹⁰ Your kingdom come.

Your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading (p.316 of NT) – **Revelation 22:1-6** (NRSV)

¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there anymore.

But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

⁶And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Heaven is a Place on Earth"

The Rev. Lauren Scharstein

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***Hymn 726**

Will You Come and Follow Me

Kelvingrove

Prayer of the People

We Worship With Our Offerings

Prayer Dedicating the Offering

Offertory Anthem

The Handiwork of God

Mark A. Miller

Chancel Choir

*Stitched together, piece by piece, sewn with purpose and with care.
Scraps once thought to have no worth now become a sacred treasure.*

***A quilt of love made by holy hands, every pattern known by heart.
Stitched together by the sewer of our souls, a quilt of love, a work of art.
We're the handiwork of God.***

*Gathered here in this holy hour, hearts are full of pain and glory.
Quilt the threads of this kinship up, into your unfolding story.*

*When we've come apart, when we've been torn.
When the fabric of our lives is frayed and worn, mend us up, loving friend.
Let your creative touch heal again.*

*All the colors, each design, all the living of these days,
Every blessing, a gift from God, and all creation sings its praise!*

A quilt of love and each of us bears a part, we're the handiwork of God!

***We Give Praise to God**

Doxology

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

Celebration of the 2022 Confirmation Class (insert)

Introduction

Confirmation Litany – *Sharing What We Believe*

Presentation of 2022 Confirmands

Eric Noren

Constitutional Questions to New Members

Constitutional Questions to the Church Family

Presentation of Gifts

Prayer of Commissioning

***Closing Hymn 20**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Royal Oak

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

GO WITH GOD – TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

*The flowers decorating the chancel this morning
are given by Pam Bonelli,
in celebration of family and
in thanksgiving for the PCUM Chancel Choir.*

WELCOME and thank you for your part in this service of worship. If you are a visitor here at the Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair (PCUM), you are especially welcome. May you sense in this place the presence and the love of God in Christ. You and your fellow worshippers are warmly invited to Fellowship Hall immediately following this morning’s service for refreshments and conversation.

PLEASE ASK AN USHER for anything you might need. Whenever possible, help fellow worshippers by exiting and entering the sanctuary at times other than during prayers or scripture readings.

CHILD CARE for toddlers and a nursery for younger children are always available during worship in the North Wing, located off Fellowship Hall (adjacent to sanctuary). Ask an usher for directions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES for all children through 7th grade are located in the North Wing. Ask the ushers or Christian Education leaders for help finding classrooms.



RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM this morning are Harrison Keathley, Ingrid Keathley, Luke Freedman and Andrew Rowley. Presenting Andrew, Harrison, Ingrid and Luke to baptized on behalf of their church family and the PCUM Session (elected board) is Elder Eric Noren.

BAPTISM IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) celebrates the truth that God’s love claims us even before we are able to respond in faith. In the PC (USA), baptism itself does not bring about salvation, but is an outward sign pointing to God’s love for us and free gift to us of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The waters of baptism represent the washing away of all brokenness that separates us from God, our dying and rising with Christ, and an adoption into the covenant family of Christ’s Body, the church. The entire congregation, on behalf of the worldwide Christian church, assumes responsibility for nurturing the baptized children in the Christian life.

GUEST PREACHER THIS MORNING IS THE REV. LAUREN SCHARSTEIN, PCUM’s associate pastor from 2012 to 2017. Lauren is currently serving with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) in Kenya, where she lives with her husband, Dan Nduati, and daughter, Kris. Since leaving PCUM, Lauren has served as lecturer at the Presbyterian University of East Africa and has been particularly involved in outreach to pastoralist communities--providing mentorship, administrative leadership, and program development for ministries with vulnerable Kenyan women and girls. In early 2019, Lauren accepted the PCEA's invitation to become their new Deputy Director of Mission for the denomination. Lauren is in the United States visiting her family and thanking the churches and individuals, including PCUM, who support her ministry in Kenya. Welcome back, Lauren!

PCUM IS “MASK OPTIONAL” – with local Montclair ordinances, PCUM is worshiping and sharing in program ministry with a “mask optional” policy. Worshipers and all those participating in on-site church activities will decide whether or not to wear a mask and be encouraged to value each other’s health by maintaining social distance wherever possible.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: HELP FEED & SERVE HUNGRY NEIGHBORS: Saturday dates are available for you (and your family) to join other volunteers from PCUM to serve hungry neighbors here in Montclair on the 1st & 4th Saturdays of the month—and in Newark on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Prepare food, serve meals, and sing and/or play music for guests. Sign up at <http://www.pcum.org/serve-others/local-opportunities-to-serve-homeless-neighbors>. A life-changing experience!

SIGN UP TO DEDICATE FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP – You can honor loved ones and beautifully the PCUM family’s worship experience by dedicating flowers for Sunday morning worship service on any Sunday throughout the remaining calendar year. The suggested donation for two standard bouquets is \$80; dedications appear in the morning bulletin. Sign up using the Flower Calendar in the Deacons’ Corner or online at www.pcum.org. Thank you.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: Come, join the (safely distanced) fun! Middle Schoolers (6th-8th graders) meet Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for games, learning, and to build friendships. For more info, contact Youth Director Jordan Green at (jordan@pcum.org).

PCUM’S CHILDREN’S CHOIR MINISTRY (2nd-5th graders) teaches children to love music and lead their church family in worship. Kids not only learn the song, but they also learn how to sing. They also grow spiritually, grow in confidence and self-discipline, and grow to feel more at home in their church. Rehearsals are Thursday afternoons, from 4:00-5:00 p.m., in the Choir Room with Julie Platte. For more information, please email juliebplatte@gmail.com.

CHANCEL CHOIR rehearsals for adults are weekly on **Thursdays at 7:00pm** in the choir room. We are currently working on special music for Holy Week and Easter. New singers are always welcome! For more info, contact Director of Music Ministries, Anne Marie Juliano at jajulianos@gmail.com or (973) 930-5074.



PCUM’s *Core Values:*

Thoughtful, Nourishing Worship ✝ *Vibrant Ministry to Children & Youth*

Relationships ✝ *Participation* ✝ *Service to Others and to the World* ✝ *Relevance and Authenticity*



The Presbyterian Church
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Pastor & Head of Staff:

The Rev. Gregory A. Horn

Director of Music Ministries:

Anne Marie Juliano

Pastoral Intern: Graham Bridgeman

Youth Director: Jordan Green

Children’s Music Directors:

Julie Platte Denise Silecchia

Church Administrator: Denise Silecchia

Sexton: Jimmy Abad