



First Presbyterian CHURCH *Pottstown*

Service of the Lord's Day
Sunday, January 10, 2021

God's People Gather

"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go to the House of the Lord!" (Psalm 122:1)

With glad hearts, we welcome you to worship among this community of believers! The decorated tubes in the pews are guides to assist us in caring for one another by maintaining safe distances. You may move the tubes in either direction in the pew to accommodate your "household."

We invite you to hum the hymns or meditate on the words as the Sanctuary Singers sing on our behalf.

Greetings and Announcements

Prayer of Preparation

Dear Lord, calm our fears and anxiety this moment, this time, this place. We are never out of your presence, your glory, your blessings. May we tamp down the noise, the buzz, the constant assault of digital and social media. May we rest and find our peace in you. This time, this moment, this place. Bless our hearts and souls this time of worship and praise. Amen.

Prelude **Breathe on Me, Breath of God** – arr. Chadburn

Piano, Cindy Foust

*Call to Worship

L: Bless the Lord my Soul

P: **And all that is within me.**

L: Bless the Lord my Soul

P: **Let your peace and grace enter our hearts, O Lord.**

ALL: **Open our hearts, O Lord. Open our souls to your miracle healing power. Heal our hearts, heal our land, for you are our peace and our Salvation.**

*Hymn **Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest. Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Prayer of Confession

Lord you call us to total submission and obedience to your Lordship and Kingship. You tell us to deny ourselves, pick up our crosses and follow you. But we confess Lord that what we say, confess and affirm can be far different from what we do. Or even are willing to consider. We tend Lord to keep you at arm's length. Nice and neat in our boxes we like to control and manage. We close our minds and hearts to ideas, views and opinions that fail to conform to our preconceived notions. We are asleep in the Light, we doze and wonder in our worship, our spiritual disciplines and reduce our confessions to mere words on a page. Yes, Lord, we confess this to be true. We lay our confessions, our prejudices, our notions at the

foot of your cross. You have died for us, you have risen for us, you have paid the price for our sins. May we live and speak boldly in that Truth. Hear us, O Lord.

Silent Prayer Confession

Declaration of Pardon

L: Friends, believe the good news: the glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

P: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven: thanks be to God!

L: Jesus says "Let your light shine before all."

*Response

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

God's Word is Heard

Time With Children

Anthem **We Three Kings** -- arr. Sorenson

Piano Duet, Cindy Foust & Julie Kovach

Scripture Reading **Exodus 14:10-14**

Sermon **"Fear Not"**

Rev. Peter Gregory

God's People Respond

*Giving Our Gifts

Prayer of Dedication

Doxology

O come let us adore him! O come let us adore him!

O come let us adore him! Christ the Lord!

Prayers of the People

...The Lord be with you.

And also with you...

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.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,

for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.

God's Sends Us Out

*Hymn **God of Grace and God of Glory**

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power; crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore. Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

*Blessing

*Postlude **Good Christian Friends, Rejoice** -- arr. Hayes

Piano, Julie Kovach

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Please leave the sanctuary by the side aisles and both doors; the deacons will guide you.

Our sanctuary singers and instrumentalists this morning are John Genther, Gayle Hall, Julie Kovach, Sarah Pinard and Rob Wade. Thank you!

About the Sermon: *As a combat veteran of 3 war zones over my career and having jumped out of perfectly good airplanes a few times. I have had to face my fears numerous times. When you are standing on the ledge of a C-130 at 10,000 ft or putting on 60 pounds of body armor, you have a clear choice. Jump, hit the beach, or go and sit down. Retreat back to the comfort and security of the ship, the Ward Room, and have a cup of coffee. Live by faith or live by fear. Do nothing or make a difference. Trust in the Lord or take counsel of your own fears. In the message today the People of the Covenant had a choice to make, trust in Lord, go forth in trust of God's promise or wish for the false comfort and security of being a Slave in a foreign land. We all face situations and times where the choices are clear, and decisions need to be made. Whom do you trust? And what will you do? May God bless and keep us in His promises. Fear not.*

*Peter Gregory D. Min. BCC
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