



# First Presbyterian CHURCH *Pottstown*

## Service of the Lord's Day

Sunday, January 17, 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

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**Prelude**    **Make Me A Channel of Your Peace** -- Temple/arr. Hayes

#### \*Call to Worship

L: Sing to the Lord, praise God's name;

**P: proclaim God's salvation day after day.**

L: Declare God's glory among the nations,

**P: God's marvelous deeds among all peoples.**        (Psalm 96)

#### \*Hymn    **Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might: thy justice, like mountains high soaring above; thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

#### Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, forgive us for failing to live as forgiven people. Too often, we keep destructive habits and hold on to grudges. We allow our past to hold us hostage and are reluctant to welcome newness. In your loving-kindness have mercy on us and free us from sin. (silence)**  
**Remind us of the promises you have made to us in baptism so that we may live as your people, and keep our promises to you. Amen.**

#### 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**

**From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land, in every tongue. Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**God's Word is Heard**

**Time With Children**

**Anthem Our Great Savior and Sonata in D Minor, K.9** -- Scarlatti/arr. Shipley  
Flutists: Rebecca Lipsky and Sarah Pinard

**Scripture Readings Mark 1:4-11  
John 1:43-51**

**Sermon Come And See** Rev. W. Carter Lester, Jr.

**God's People Respond**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

**\*Giving Our Gifts**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Doxology**

**We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering.**

**Litany**

In the waters of baptism, we were called to be God's children and to minister to one another. Let us therefore pray for ourselves, for one another, and for all those in need of our prayers.

Let us pray for the church, that it may stand fast in the one faith to which it has been called, and be marked by generosity, hospitality, hope, love, and a thirst for justice.

*(Silence)*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our elected leaders, our President and President-elect, the members of Congress, our Governors, and members of the State legislature, that they might seek the common good and have the wisdom and courage to pursue it.

*(Silence)*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all who are blinded to the injustices of the world, that our eyes may be opened and we may work for an end to oppression and injustice.

*(Silence)*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the sick [especially...], that they may be made whole.

*(Silence)*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our country that disagreement may not lead to hatred and that violence might be restrained. Especially do we pray for a peaceful inauguration and transition of power.

*(Silence)*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us give thanks for the faithful who have gone before us, that we may follow the example of their lives and be reunited with them in the joy of everlasting life.

*(Silence)*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you know our thoughts and needs better than we ourselves. Accept the prayers that we now offer and strengthen us to do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. We pray the prayer he taught us to pray together

**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 Arise, Your Light Is Come!**

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey; show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door; proclaim the captives' liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born, bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

#### **\*Blessing**

#### **\*Postlude They'll Know We Are Christians -- Scholtes/arr. Hayes**

*\*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 Bruce Achuff, John Genther, Rob Land, Rebecca Lipsky, Sarah Pinard and Rob Wade. Thank you!*

*The sanctuary flowers are given by Andy, Kathy, and Laura Hazeltine in memory of brother-in-law and uncle, Michael Moshier.*