

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP ON THE LORD'S DAY

August 23, 2020 at 10:00am Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

We Gather Around God's Word

We invite you to listen quietly during the Prelude and prepare for the service to begin.

WELCOME
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Leigh Gillis
Rosemary Schultz

Prelude "Shall We Gather at the River" by Callahan
Robert Grube, Jr., Organist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Kris Farley

Leader: Let justice roll down like water.

People: Let mercy bloom like a flower.

Leader: Let all God's people join hands

People: And none be excluded.

Leader: Let differences be like presents to open.

People: Let strangers turn into friends.

Leader: Raise your voice against oppression and injustice;

People: Sing a new song of hope.

Leader: Let God fill you with love;

People: Let God chase away fear.

Leader: Walk with Jesus the paths of peace

People: And bring in the promised day of the Lord.

All: Let us Worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Kris Farley

We know that we have not lived according to God's desires for us. The brokenness in the world, and the sin and despair in our hearts, threaten to consume us as a mighty flood. Yet God is our hope and our firm foundation. Let us confess our sin together before our gracious God...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Kris Farley

God of freedom and life, we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough, so judge others as "not good enough." We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward in mission and ministry. We forget that Jesus never had a "church building." Forgive us. Stir us to prayerful action. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to risk and to speak for what is just, and seek the healing of all your creation. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Leigh Gillis

We Give Glory to God

*Glory be to the Father
And to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end, Amen, Amen.*

Special Music "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Arr. R. Walters
Reid Powell, Soloist

We Proclaim God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Kris Farley

By your Spirit, Lord, as your Word is read and proclaimed, may the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson: Exodus 1:8-14 and 2:1-5

Kris Farley

Exodus 1:15-22 and 2:5-10

Daniel Velez

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Rev. Leigh Gillis

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "MOSES, THE BASKET CASE"

Rev. Leigh Gillis

We Respond to God's Word

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Leigh Gillis, Tina Hechevarria

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE APOSTLES' CREED - 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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

We Worship With Our Offerings

Call For Offering

Rev. Leigh Gillis

Offertory "Go Down, Moses" Arr. H. T. Burleigh
Reid Powell, Soloist

***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*

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Leigh Gillis

Benediction

Rev. Leigh Gillis

Postlude

Robert Grube, Jr.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Streaming after the service: Daniel Velez - Children's Message

The Ministers of the First Presbyterian Church, Cranford NJ:
The Entire Congregation of FPCC
Pastor – Rev. Leigh B. Gillis
Director of Children, Youth and Families - Daniel Velez-Acevedo
Assistant Music Director– Elsa G. Hahn
Organist – Robert Grube, Jr.
Office Administrator – Carol Thee

Sunday Worship Action Team

Pastor Leigh

Organist - Bob Grube

Videographers - Laura Simone, Kris and Colin Farley, Sarah Cassidy

Sound - Terry Schultz, Rob Berns, Janice Grevious

Worship Elder - Rosemary Schultz, Tina Hechevarria, assistant

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CRANFORD

11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey 07016

Phone (908) 276-8440

www.firstprescranford.org



ColoringPage.com

Mission Statement

*As the body of Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we seek to live God's Word and inspire others to
embrace Jesus' commandment to love one another as
the Lord loves us.*



We send a very big *THANK YOU* to member, Dale Schoustra for making it possible for us to have our picnic on the grounds of Gray Memorial Funeral Home. The setting was beautiful and made the occasion special on a summery day.
Thank you, Dale!

**LET'S HAVE A PICNIC!
ON AUGUST 23, AT 11:30,
DRIVE OR WALK TO
GRAY'S PROPERTY
ON SPRINGFIELD AVENUE
FOR AN IN-PERSON GATHERING.**

*YOU CAN SPREAD A BLANKET ON THE GRASS,
OR BRING A CHAIR.
BRING YOUR FAMILY, LUNCH AND MASKS.*

*WE WILL DISTANCE SOCIALLY
AND ENJOY ONE ANOTHER'S COMPANY*

**WORSHIP ON-LINE AT 10
PICNIC AT 11:30
HAVE FUN ALL DAY!!**



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PASTORAL CARE – For Pastoral Care needs and concerns, contact President of Deacons, Amy Aaroe at 908-403-5321.
Amy will contact the pastor for you.
Pastor Leigh Gillis can be reached at 908-432-3959
pastorleigh@firstprescranford.org.

JOIN US! FPCC has begun a weekly service of morning prayer on Tuesday mornings. You are welcome to gather for "Morningsong". The Morningsong prayer service in the chapel will be at **8:30 a.m.** Thanks to all who responded to the poll. Masks are required.

UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES - The next Vespers service in the chapel will be August 18 at 6:30 p.m. Masks are required.

On August 30 and September 6 we will be blessed with worship services created by teams of churches around the Presbytery of Elizabeth. They will stream on our platforms at the regular time of 10:00 a.m. The service for Sept. 6 will be recorded here at FPCC in August. The presbytery suggested, helped organize, and will make available these worship services so that all who have worked so hard in our congregations can have a little break from weekly production.

FLOWERS – Flower requests have been received for remaining Sundays in August. Thank you! If you would like to donate flowers in September "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" someone, contact Judy Bobucky at 908- 272-3643 or jbobucky@verizon.net. The flowers will be delivered by the Deacons after the service to someone who is in need of support at that time. The cost is \$50 which can be mailed to the church directly. Please be sure to note that the money is for flowers.

TODAY'S FLOWERS are donated in memory of parents.

FLOWER CONTAINERS – We are in need of coffee cans which are decorated and used to deliver flower arrangements after worship. Please drop off empty plastic or metal containers in the church office.

GRIEF SEMINAR – The next seminar will be conducted on Zoom and will be held at 6:30pm Sunday evenings from September 20th through October 25th. To register, contact Patti Williams at 908-709-1341.

BIBLE EXPLORERS - Here we are in the middle of August - no closer to in person meetings than we were at the end of June. I am proposing to restart the weekly Zoom meetings after worship on Sundays at 11am beginning on September 13th.

I plan to take up a Kerygma study of 2 Corinthians as follow-on from the just completed 1 Corinthians. Study Guides will be \$23 for a 14 lesson course. I need to know by September 4th who is interested in this so I can obtain the study guides. Please contact me to register at morrhio@verizon.net.

Mark Orrichio

PASTORAL THOUGHTS - We continue to find ourselves "stuck in Covid-19 time." Social anxiety has only continued to grow. They are even talking about those born in the last year or so and into the early 2020s as "The Covid Generation." This is a time which will have lasting impact on us all much as 9/11 or, for us Boomers, the Kennedy assassination.

In addition, we all have health concerns for ourselves and loved ones, as well as the world. There is worry about money, some very justified, some because peoples' ideas of "enough" vary and those with much are scared of having less.

Scripture is very clear on the call to followers of Christ in response to the upheaval which is going on now in our society. To be faithful people of integrity, we must put aside our own heritage, our own feelings, our comfort, our pride in what our families historically did or did not do and do what Jesus calls us to do.

I will probably read this in worship because I want you to hear it, and everyone does not download or read the weekly bulletin. You/we at FPCC are only "church" because of Jesus Christ. There is no other reason for this entity to be. THAT is/should be our primary focus. We are called to live our faith even more visibly now, not to retreat into selfish, insular, preservationist habits springing from fear. Be more visible in your love and care and expressions of understanding of the plights of others. Opportunities to share the gospel, the good news which we claim to believe, are more prevalent now than ever.

Ponder this: Jesus completely emptied himself for you and all of us. Can we not be expected to do the same?

Prayers of the Church Family

Pray for those in the FPCC Family facing health challenges and the loss of family members.

Pray for loved ones and friends of the FPCC Family.

Prayers for those who feel forgotten or unloved, for those feeling overwhelmed. Prayers for healthcare and essential workers. We pray for people seeking asylum. We pray that as a nation, we respond to all people in need in a way that Christ would affirm. We pray for the youth of FPCC and the adults who are in their lives. We pray for those serving in the military, for married couples facing turmoil, those in leadership of our nation, and for peace in our country and the world.

Emergency and immediate prayer support is available for friends and family of the Church! To add someone, contact Linda Thorn at lindathorn427@gmail.com, or at 908 358 8127.

*Our Prayers of Condolence for
the families of the Marines killed in the training mishap,
and for all who have lost a loved one.*