



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH EAST

October 18, 2020
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Gregg D. Townsend, Pastor
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GATHERING MUSIC: “Won’t You Be My Neighbor”

GREETING: Pastor Gregg Townsend

*** CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER**

Leader: The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;

Together: for he has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?

Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

—Psalm 24:1-4, NRSV

Loving God, we come to you in worship and thanksgiving. You are greater than we can understand;
open our eyes that we may see the wonderful truths you have shown to us in Jesus.

You are more loving than our hearts can respond to;

help us to give ourselves to you in worship so that we learn what you want us to be.

You are wiser than we can know;

still our minds as we worship you so that we can understand the things you are saying to us.

Loving God, in Jesus you chose to come to the world in humility. You chose the path the world saw as foolish. You used what the world considered weak.

We worship and adore you. Amen.

*** OPENING PRAISE:** “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Praise to the Lord the Almighty, the King of creation.

O my soul praise Him for He is thy health and salvation

All ye who hear now to His temple draw near. Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth.

Shelters thee under His wings, yes so gently sustaineth.

Hast thou not seen how all thy longings hath been. Granted in what He ordaineth.

Praise to the Lord who doth prosper Thy work and defend thee.

Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do if with His love He befriend thee.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Praise to the Lord O let all that is in me adore Him.
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before Him.
Let the amen sound from His people again. Gladly forever adore Him.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we confess before you and each other that our lives are not pure and holy apart from the cleansing we have from the work of Christ.

We confess that too often Christ in us is hidden by our actions that wound rather than heal, that tear down rather than build up.

Open our eyes,
that we may see you in the ones we say we love.

Open our ears,
that we may be quicker to listen than to speak.

Open our mouths
to speak good rather than evil of our neighbors.

Open our hands
in generosity and help us let go of clenched fists.

Open our hearts
to a desire to follow Jesus in full obedience to your will and your way.

We pray trusting in your forgiveness and in the power of your Holy Spirit to lead and guide us in paths of justice and righteousness for your name's sake.

Amen.

LAMENT: "What A Friend We Have in Jesus"

What a friend we have in Jesus. All our sins and griefs to bear.
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.
O what peace we often forfeit. O what needless pain we bear.
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged. Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful? Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness. Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior still our refuge. Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee. Thou wilt find a solace there.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 10:25-37

MESSAGE

*** RESPONDING IN SONG:** “Won’t You Be My Neighbor”

It’s a beautiful day in this neighborhood, a beautiful day for a neighbor,
Would you be mine? Could you be mine?
It’s a neighborly day in this beauty wood, a neighborly day for a beauty,
Would you be mine? Could you be mine?
I have always wanted to have a neighbor just like you,
I’ve always wanted to live in a neighborhood with you.
So let’s make the most of this beautiful day, since we’re together, we might as well say,
Would you be mine? Could you be mine? Won’t you be my neighbor?
Won’t you please, won’t you please, please won’t you be my neighbor?

PASTORAL 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.

*** CLOSING SONG:** “Savior Like a Shepherd”

Savior like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care.
In thy pleasant pastures feed us for our use thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought, us thine we are.

We are thine do thou befriend us; be the guardian of our way.
Keep thy flock, from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray.
You are my Shepherd, I will want no other, need no others, heed no other.
My Shepherd, I will dwell with You forever, forever more.

Early let us seek thy favor; early let us do thy will.
Blessed Lord and only Savior with thy love our hearts are filled.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still
You are my Shepherd, I will want no other, need no others, heed no other.
My Shepherd, I will dwell with You forever, forever more. **(Repeat)**

*** BENEDICTION**

*** POSTLUDE:** “It’s Such a Good Feeling”

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OFFLINE: OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND

For our online worshippers: there are four easy ways to give your financial gift to the church:

1. Send in your financial support via the **US mail**.
2. Contact the church office (814-725-8641) to set up **direct deposit** from your bank account to the church.
3. You can also now give through **PayPal**. Just click on the link: paypal.me/fpcne. Or click on the “Shop Now” button on the church Facebook page, which will take you to the link.
4. Download the **“Give Plus† Mobile”** app from the App Store. Enter our zip code (16428) and select “First Presbyterian Church.” It takes about five minutes to set up your account and connect with the church. Then simply select the ‘+’ sign at the top to add your giving.

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER AND DEVOTION

Join Pastor Gregg on Facebook LIVE every Wednesday evening at 7:00 P.M. for a time of prayer and devotion. Use the “Send Message” button on Facebook to submit a prayer request, or message Pastor Gregg.

CHURCH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THERE WILL BE A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 following the worship service. Please plan to attend in-person at 25 West Main Street.

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS: OUR FPCNE COLLEGIANS will meet on Tuesday, October 20 at 7:30 PM (EDT). Visit our Facebook page for Zoom log-in info.

WE NEED 2-3 MORE RINGERS FOR OUR BELL CHOIR. Won’t you consider giving ringing a try? Practice is held on Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:00 PM. We will teach you everything you need to know. No experience is necessary. Please speak with Jane Livingston or just show up on Thursday night!

OUR ANNUAL CLOTHING GIVE-AWAY is coming up on November 7, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We will also be providing bagged lunches while supplies last. Please consider donating your gently used clothing to help our community. We really need coats, especially for adults. To help you plan, we will need 6-8 people on Thursday and Friday, November 5 and 6 to set up. On Saturday, November 7, we will need about 7 volunteers from 9:00 AM to noon and 7 from noon to 3:00 PM. (We are still determining details due to capacity limits secondary to the pandemic.) Masks will be required, and social distancing requirements will be followed.

FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO BROADEN AND DEEPEN THEIR LIFE IN CHRIST, Pastor Gregg will be offering a virtual **HIP HAPPENIN’ THEOLOGY** book study via Zoom this fall. In 2022, he will lead virtual **READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**. To plan, **please connect with Pastor Gregg** if you are interested in either of these Christian education opportunities.

IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST, JOY OR CONCERN TO SHARE, please speak with Pastor Gregg or call or text his cell phone at (814) 460-3123. You can also email our prayer chain at jlivingston@neo.rr.com.