



First Presbyterian Church

September 19, 2021 | 10:30 AM (ET) | Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Gregg D. Townsend, Pastor
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Pastor Gregg: (814) 460-3123

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**Indicates to stand if you are able*

GATHERING MUSIC:

GREETING

Pastor Gregg Townsend

* CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER

Leader: People of God, worship the living God today! Remember that out of nothing God created the heavens and earth. Remember that God raised Jesus from the powerlessness of death to the power of his right hand. Remember that not even the gates of hell can stand against God's purposes. Behold your God, who reigns now and forever!

Congregation: Let us worship God!

Let us pray.

Show us the way to fullness of life, Lord Jesus; that our hearts might be filled with joy, hope, and peace, we pray; that we might respond to opportunities, we pray; that we might be strengthened to face challenges, we pray; that we might become the persons we are called to be, we pray; that we might learn to respect our sisters and brothers, we pray; that we might see the needs of others and give help, we pray. Amen.

* OPENING PRAISE: "The Church's One Foundation"

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.
She is His new creation by water and the Word.
From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride.
With His own blood He bought her and for her life He died.

Elect from every nation yet one o'er all the earth.
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food.
And to one hope she presses with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder, this world sees her oppressed.
By schisms rent asunder. By heresies distressed.
Yet saints their watch are keeping. Their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

'Mid toil and tribulation and tumult of her war.
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore.
Till with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest.
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One.
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy, Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, you are a God who keeps promises. In our prayers and songs we say that we want to be Christians, but then we forget our promises. Our actions do not match up with our words. We say mean things to other people, we hurt their feelings, we think of ourselves first, and, worst of all, we ignore you. Lord, forgive us and hear our prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

—Psalm 130:3-4, 7-8, NRSV

SONG OF THANKSGIVING: "Lord, Glorify Your Name"

Lord, glorify Your name as we lift our hands in praise.
Bring Your power. Bring Your holiness. Bring Your glory to this place.
As we sing to You, "Hallelujah!" We lift our voice to You, "Hallelujah!"
Lord we sing to You, "Hallelujah! Hallelujah!"

Lord, glorify Your name as we lift our hands in praise.
Come in power. Come in holiness. Come in glory to this place.
As we sing to You, "Praise You, O Lord!" We lift our voice to You, "Praise You, O Lord!"
Lord we sing to You, "Praise You, O Lord. We praise You, O Lord!"

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 20:1-18

MESSAGE

RESPONDING IN SONG: "How Great Is Our God"

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty. Let all the earth rejoice. Let all the earth rejoice.
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide. It trembles at His voice. It trembles at His voice.

**How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!**

Age to age He stands, and time is in His hands. Beginning and the End. Beginning and the End/
The Godhead three in one. Father, Spirit, Son. The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb (**CHORUS**)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

*** CLOSING SONG:** "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ the solid Rock I stand. All other ground is sinking sand. All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. (**Chorus**)

His oath, His covenant, His blood support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. (**Chorus**)

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone. Faultless to stand before the throne. (**Chorus**)

*** BENEDICTION**

*** POSTLUDE**

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WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER AND DEVOTION

Join Pastor Gregg on Facebook LIVE on Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM (EDT) for a time of prayer and devotion. Please contact Pastor Gregg directly to share any prayer requests.

CONTACT INFO YOU MIGHT NEED

- Contact Pastor Gregg anytime at (814) 460-3123 (call or text) and pastortownsend@yahoo.com.
- Contact music director Jane Livingston at (814) 504-1135 (call or text) and jlivingston@neo.rr.com.
- **Please send announcements or calendar events to Jane.**

OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND

There are five easy ways to give your financial gift to the church:

1. For in-person worshippers, place your envelopes in the plates at the back of the sanctuary.
2. Send in your financial support via the **USPS to 25 West Main Street, North East PA 16428.**
3. Contact the church office (814-725-8641) to set up **direct deposit** from your bank account to the church.
4. 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.
5. 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.

CHURCH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FPCNE CHURCH IS SEEKING TO FILL TWO PART-TIME JOB OPENINGS. Persons interested in one or both positions should contact Pastor Gregg.

- **Youth Worker and Director of Christian Education** is responsible for planning, overseeing, and directing Sunday School, special events such as Vacation Bible School, and leading the church Youth Group. They should demonstrate a deep faith commitment to Jesus Christ, a basic understanding of Christianity and the Bible, an ability to work well with volunteers, and a passionate concern for children and youth.
- **Communications Administrator** is responsible for overseeing and promoting church announcements, events, and information both within the congregation (e.g. newsletters & emails) and in the community (e.g. Facebook posts, press releases, and webpage uploads) along with a few basic office administration tasks. Interested persons will demonstrate a knowledge of Microsoft Office applications, be comfortable with using social media applications, and willing to learn basic website building.

BEAUTIFY OUR CHANCEL WITH FLOWERS. Please speak with Jane if you can help to provide flowers for our chancel in the coming weeks.

WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR AV TEAM. We’d like to set up multiple cameras for our online worship service, which will allow us to put our sanctuary back into its normal set-up. But we need a few more folks to help manage the sound and AV equipment. The only skill you need is the ability to pay attention! Otherwise, Jane will provide training and sets up each week. Please speak with Jane Livingston for more info.

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 or text Jane Livingston at (814) 504-1135.

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

WE HAVE BEGUN CHANCEL AND BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS ON THURSDAY EVENINGS. We need both men and women, both singers and ringers! We welcome our youth from grade 8 and up to join as well. Singing or ringing in choir is really a lot of fun, doesn’t require a big-time commitment and is a great way to serve the church. Speak with Jane Livingston for more info.

- **BELL CHOIR PRACTICE** is held on Thursdays at 6:00 PM
- **CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE** is held on Thursdays at 7:00 PM.