

First Presbyterian Church - Rouses Point NY
Virtual Worship-June 21, 2020
Order of Service

Greeting-Father's Day greetings

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

You alone are our God, and we will worship no one and nothing else. We give thanks for the good things you have done for us and all your people. Take our hearts: awaken them. Take our hands: enliven them—not that we might be made great through you, but that your greatness might be seen through us! Receive, we pray, our praise and our petitions through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come and worship the God of love and hope. Let us praise the Lord together, even while we remain apart.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of immeasurable grace, we come here this day with so many things on our hearts. How shall we measure our sins? Only you know their real dimensions; the history disobedience, pride, prejudice and of wrongdoing. Forgive us we pray for all the ways we have failed to follow Jesus and to be his witnesses in the world. And by your Spirit empower our lives to be mirrors of your love and grace. In the name of Jesus, our Savior we repent pray. Amen ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Readings and Proclaiming God's Word

Old Testament: Psalm 86:1-7

New Testament: Matthew 10:24-33

Sermon "God Sees Us"

*Affirmation of faith: Apostle's Creed

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

*Benediction

PSALM 86:1-7 A PRAYER OF DAVID. HEAR ME, LORD, AND ANSWER ME, FOR I AM POOR AND NEEDY. GUARD MY LIFE, FOR I AM FAITHFUL TO YOU; SAVE YOUR SERVANT WHO TRUSTS IN YOU. YOU ARE MY GOD; HAVE MERCY ON ME, LORD, FOR I CALL TO YOU ALL DAY LONG. BRING JOY TO YOUR SERVANT, LORD, FOR I PUT MY TRUST IN YOU. YOU, LORD, ARE FORGIVING AND GOOD, ABOUNDING IN LOVE TO ALL WHO CALL TO YOU. HEAR MY PRAYER, LORD; LISTEN TO MY CRY FOR MERCY. WHEN I AM IN DISTRESS, I CALL TO YOU, BECAUSE YOU ANSWER ME.

MATTHEW 10:24-33 THE STUDENT IS NOT ABOVE THE TEACHER, NOR A SERVANT ABOVE HIS MASTER. IT IS ENOUGH FOR STUDENTS TO BE LIKE THEIR TEACHERS, AND SERVANTS LIKE THEIR MASTERS. IF THE HEAD OF THE HOUSE HAS BEEN CALLED BEELZEBUL, HOW MUCH MORE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD! SO DO NOT BE AFRAID OF THEM, FOR THERE IS NOTHING CONCEALED THAT WILL NOT BE DISCLOSED, OR HIDDEN THAT WILL NOT BE MADE KNOWN. WHAT I TELL YOU IN THE DARK, SPEAK IN THE DAYLIGHT; WHAT IS WHISPERED IN YOUR EAR, PROCLAIM FROM THE ROOFS. DO NOT BE AFRAID OF THOSE WHO KILL THE BODY BUT CANNOT KILL THE SOUL. RATHER, BE AFRAID OF THE ONE WHO CAN DESTROY BOTH SOUL AND BODY IN HELL. ARE NOT TWO SPARROWS SOLD FOR A PENNY? YET NOT ONE OF THEM WILL FALL TO THE GROUND OUTSIDE YOUR FATHER'S CARE. AND EVEN THE VERY HAIRS OF YOUR HEAD ARE ALL NUMBERED. SO DON'T BE AFRAID; YOU ARE WORTH MORE THAN MANY SPARROWS. WHOEVER ACKNOWLEDGES ME BEFORE OTHERS, I WILL ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE BEFORE MY FATHER IN HEAVEN. BUT WHOEVER DISOWNS ME BEFORE OTHERS, I WILL DISOWN BEFORE MY FATHER IN HEAVEN.

SERMON SUMMARY- MATTHEW 10:24-33

THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SAID THIS ABOUT THE REASON BEHIND SOME OF OUR ACTIONS OR INACTION.

“COWARDICE ASKS THE QUESTION-IS IT SAFE?
EXPEDIENCY ASKS THE QUESTION-IS IT POLITIC?
VANITY ASKS THE QUESTION-IS IT POPULAR?
BUT CONSCIENCE ASKS THE QUESTION-IS IT RIGHT?”

AND THERE COMES A TIME WHEN WE MUST TAKE A POSITION THAT IS NEITHER-SAFE, NOR POLITIC, NOR POPULAR, BUT WE MUST TAKE IT BECAUSE IT IS RIGHT.”

IN A SIMILAR WAY JESUS CHALLENGES HIS FOLLOWERS, USING DIFFERENT WORDS AND IMAGES, BUT WITH THE SAME THEME.

CHRISTIANS ARE CHALLENGED BY THE LORD TO SAY AND DO WHAT IS RIGHT IN GOD’S SIGHT. AND THERE ARE TIMES, JESUS WARNED HIS DISCIPLES, THAT PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL IN WORD OR DEED WILL NOT BE SAFE, OR POLITIC, OR POPULAR, BUT IT WILL BE RIGHT.

THEREFORE HE TOLD THEM TO NOT BE AFRAID OF FOLLOWING HIM. THE ONLY THING THEY REALLY NEED TO FEAR IS TURNING AWAY FROM GOD AND NOT REPENTING, AND THUS MISSING OUT ON ETERNAL LIFE.

THIS SOUNDS GOOD, BUT LET’S FACE IT, WE CAN FIND MANY MORE THINGS TO FEAR DURING OUR EARTHLY LIFE. GOD IS CERTAINLY AWARE OF THIS. IN FACT THE COMMAND TO NOT BE AFRAID IS THE MOST FREQUENT ONE FOUND IN SCRIPTURE.

OF COURSE WE OFTEN IGNORE THIS COMMAND, AND EITHER SPEAK AND ACT OUT OF FEAR, OR BECOME FROZEN BY IT. THINK ABOUT HOW MUCH FEAR PLAYED A PART IN THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS.

THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND SOME OTHERS WERE AFRAID OF JESUS BECAUSE HE THREATENED THEIR AUTHORITY.

THEY WERE ALSO FEARFUL HE WOULD DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE ROMANS, WHO THEN MIGHT ACT TO SUPPRESS WHAT THEY THOUGHT COULD BE A REBELLION.

PILATE WAS AFRAID IF HE DID NOT GIVE WAY TO THE DEMAND OF THE CROWD TO KILL JESUS, THEY WOULD RIOT.

THE DISCIPLES WERE AFRAID THEY MIGHT BE TRACKED DOWN AND ARRESTED AFTER JESUS WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.

PETER WAS SO AFRAID AFTER JESUS WAS ARRESTED, HE DID THE VERY THING JESUS WARNED ABOUT IN TODAY’S GOSPEL PASSAGE-HE DENIED JESUS BEFORE OTHERS.

AND EVEN JESUS FELT FEAR ENOUGH THAT HE ENTERED A TIME OF INTENSE PRAYER AND COMMUNION WITH HIS FATHER IN THE GARDEN, ON THE NIGHT OF HIS ARREST.

TODAY, MANY ARE FILLED WITH FEAR BECAUSE OF THINGS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD, OR TO THEM OR THEIR FAMILY. BUT REMEMBER, NO MATTER WHAT, GOD NOTICES AND CARES.

THIS IS KEY TO LIVING BEYOND OUR FEARS AS CHRISTIANS. THIS SHOULD MOTIVE US TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT INSTEAD OF SAFE, POLITIC OR POPULAR, AS CHRISTIANS.

IT IS HOW WE SHOW OTHERS WHO JESUS IS AND HOW HE CAN SAVE THEM. IT SHOWS THE VALUE OF EACH PERSON TO GOD.

BECAUSE-NO MATTER HOW IMPORTANT OR UNIMPORTANT WE THINK WE OR ANYONE ELSE IS-EACH HUMAN BEING IS OF GREAT VALUE TO GOD, WHO NOTICES AND CARES ABOUT US.

SO WE DO NOT NEED TO GIVE INTO FEAR BECAUSE WE ARE MORE VALUABLE THAN EVEN THE LITTLE BIRDS, FOR WHOM GOD CARES.

SO LET US THINK ABOUT AND BELIEVE THE OLD HYMN:

“LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED, HIS TENDER WORDS I HEAR, AND RESTING IN HIS GOODNESS, I LOSE MY DOUBTS AND FEARS. THOUGH BY THE PATH HE LEADS, BUT ONE STEP I SEE, HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW, AND I KNOW HE WATCHES ME.”

THANKS BE TO GOD. AMEN