

WORSHIP for Trinity Sunday – June 7, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Please invite family or friends, who want to join us for live worship on Sundays @10:45am, to request access by emailing their name, email, & phone number to the church office.
- 2) To watch sermons recorded on Zoom on our YouTube Channel, go to the FPCP website: <https://www.fpcpataskala.com/> and click on WORSHIP or follow us on our Facebook from the homepage.
- 3) Please have your Bible at hand for Worship each week!
- 4) Youth group for those entering 5th thru 12th grade at 3pm on 2nd & 4th Sundays: 6/14 & 28.
- 5) Scout Sunday is scheduled for June 28th during @10:45am Zoom, where those scouts who achieved their religious awards this year will be recognized. Congratulations Scouts!
- 6) Have communion elements of bread and juice of the fruit of the grape vine at table in your home for 10:45am Zoom worship on Sunday July 5th. Pastor Janet will lead us through home communion. If you need elements provided to you, call the Johnsons, who lead the Christian Response Team, at 740-901-1232.
- 7) If you need a COVID-19 cloth mask call 740-901-1232 for the Johnsons, who lead the CRT. Thank you to Gage Marcum and Katie Slaymaker, who have been making masks available.
- 8) The regular FPCP session meeting is 6:30pm (2nd) Thursday, June 11th, on Zoom.

Prelude played by Brent Miller: "Sun of My Soul" public domain; John Keble, 1820

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jdt6RxPOLF8>

Opening Hymn: "All Creature of Our God and King"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CS-oOC_AAY

Call to Worship: 1John 1:1-3 *Unison*

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

Call to Confession: 1John 1:8-10

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

Prayer of Confession: 1John 1:6 *Unison*

“If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.” We confess that we have stepped into the darkness in portions of our living. We have stepped out of the light. Forgive these sins, hidden in the darkness of hearts, we pray. Amen *(Pause for a time of silent confession.)*

Assurance of Forgiveness: 1John 1:5&7 *Responsively*

This the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him here is no darkness at all... But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. We believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

“The Gloria Patri”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgcYD_m4OhU

Hymn of Preparation: “Open My Eyes that I May See”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDceaG7kFQA>

Call to God’s Word: *Unison*

“Scripture cannot be set aside... What does Scripture say?” John 10:35 & Romans 4:3.

Prayer for Illumination: *Unison*

Lord, through your Spirit enable us to consider your Word, and to enact it in our lives to bring you glory and praise. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+2%3A42-47&version=NIV>

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed *Unison*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living 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!

SERMON: “The Fellowship of the Believers” by *The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7Jwkr-rrm83S4LEswSDBPB5W9XpJvis0SZK-fpbyEy0V3kGZAX1YLtAZOLylj8wnwviTXM-aaUsqaNu?continueMode=true& x zm rtaid=p6upkmnsS9mwaj28sSPPAQ.1591551659075.96adf5bf37457141d3610d15402508c8& x zm rhtaid=705>

The Apostles Creed refers to: “the holy catholic church” and “the communion of saints.” “The **fellowship** of the believers” is the subject of today’s passage. Koinonia is the Greek word for **fellowship**. **Fellowship** is the focus of today’s message, as we devote ourselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

For one, the early believers “broke bread in their homes,” scattered due to persecution. Like them, we are scattered, today taking communion together safely within our homes. Dates and means are authorized by session. Communion is 1 of the 2 sacraments of the Church. Sacraments set apart ordinary things for sacred purposes. We set apart ordinary bread & juice of the grape vine, common elements of food & drink, for a sacred purpose. Sacraments are visible signs of invisible grace, signs that the Holy Spirit is still at work in fullness of power, even though invisible. “All the believers were together & had everything in common.” There was common union. There was community through the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Everyone who had need received. CRT with elements. No one is left out. All are included.

Further we are united in communion with all the holy ones or saints from all times and all places. “Communion of the saints.” We are united with those departed, those who died before us and who are with Christ. We are united with disciples of Christ who are on the other side of the world, such as brothers and sisters in the family of God with us in China, in Israel, and throughout the world. We are united as the holy, one universal church, that is what catholic means. We are united as the fellowship of the believers.

But how can this be so, as we are not all in the same place or even the same time? How this can be is because fellowship happens thru the power of the HS, who enabled the conception, resurrection, and other miracles of Jesus Christ. The same Spirit who was promised to us by Christ before his death, after his resurrection and before his ascension. The same Holy Spirit who was poured out by the Father and the Son, after Jesus’ ascension to the right hand of the Father in heaven. The communion of believers comes through fellowship enabled through the power of the Holy Spirit. Fellowship includes eating together, breaking bread, but this is just a small part of what fellowship is!

Fellowship is so much more, only some of which is described in today’s short passage. Besides eating together, fellowship includes being devoted to the apostles’ teaching, growing as disciples, as Jesus instructed in the great commission from Matthew 28:19-20. Teaching disciples to obey ALL that Christ commands, as Jesus said at his ascension. Listening to Jesus, as the Father said at Jesus’ transfiguration. Do we regularly fellowship in this way? Besides being at Sunday worship, do we regularly study Scripture? Again, session is responsible for assuring means for the fellowship of believers to exercise devotion to the apostles’ teaching that is to learn in order to set into practice Scripture. There is adult study every Wednesday night, education for children every Thursday afternoon, and youth meet Sunday afternoons twice a month. There is nurture and fellowship opportunity for all ages at FPCP. And besides

group study, there is to be the personal practice of devotion to the apostles' teaching. A couple of weeks ago I got a call from someone in the church seeking personal study, without even knowing that I would be preaching this sermon. What practices of personal devotion do each of us have to Jesus' teachings? This is the first and key aspect of fellowship. In this time of isolation, when we are not able to gather in person during the pandemic, there are numerous ways of coming into deeper fellowship with God, his Word, and each other. Let us join in fellowship, by being devoted to the apostles' teaching!

3rd, believers also devoted themselves to prayer. **Are we devoted to prayer?** Jesus teaches and models prayer. Jesus is devoted to praying for us. He is our advocate. At the right hand of the Father, he intercedes for us. The Holy Spirit is also devoted to praying for us. Paul writes in **Romans 8:26, "We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."** Paul also writes in **Ephesians 6:18, "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."** Let's be honest. **As individuals and as a fellowship of believers, are we devoted to prayer and growing in prayer?** Spiritual leaders vow to pray for us. Do we pray for leaders? How often do we ask, if we can pray for leaders? I often ask people to please pray for me. I am so grateful when you do. Paul continues in Ephesians 6:19, "Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should." In fellowship let us truly be devoted to prayer.

On Weds we gather in fellowship, devoted to the apostles' teaching & prayer. We are growing in fellowship & learning about fellowship, which is the work of the Holy Spirit that unites us corporately. Scripture shows us that there is even more involved in the Spirit's work of fellowship than is described in the few verses of today's passage. Complete unity & fellowship is the Body of Christ comprised of disciples of Christ growing in both the fruit of the Spirit & open to the pouring out of the Spirit for witnessing to the advancement of the kingdom, including receiving gifts of the Spirits enabling us to be more effective in witness that is one in will with God.

Growing in fellowship, in fruit and gifts, is reliant upon, as today's passage exhorts, growing in devotion to the apostles' teaching, breaking of bread, and especially to prayer. As part of learning about the Holy Spirit on Weds, we are also learning about **history of the Church and of FPCP** from our 175th anniversary book. **Prayer gatherings were a key part of these histories.** We learned that in July of 1837 people gathered in the Baird barn for the purpose of hearing the Gospel and for prayer. From this, in November our church was born. We found that the same devotion to prayer continued to @1920. In fact, in December of 1904 the congregation was divided into prayer meeting groups for cottage prayer meetings. By 1906 the session decided to meet with other area churches for revival services thru the community. In 1916, there were still mid-week prayer meetings. Though FPCP is devoted to breaking bread & teaching, are we still devoted to the fellowship of prayer that founded us and built us up?

Fellowship is the focus of today's passage, as believers are "devoted to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Fellowship is also the emphasis of other Scriptures. We opened worship with our call to worship and confession,

prayer of confession, and assurance of forgiveness from 1John. The entire first letter of John is about complete unity and fellowship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Obviously, fellowship is much more than small talk over food and drink.

To conclude, just as Paul ended his 2nd letter to the church of Corinth, “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” (2 Corinthians 13:14).

COMMUNION

Jesus Invites Us to Come to the Table

PRAYERS OF JOYS & CONCERNS, FOLLOWED BY THE LORD’S PRAYER: *Unison*

Please call or email Pastor Janet or the church office with prayer requests for Sunday worship and this email prayer chain. **Updates are in red below.**

PRAYERS OF JOY for:

- Those celebrating **birthdays and anniversaries**.
(Look in back of church directory to send cards and to extend blessings and prayers.)
- **Joan Mauger now at home, strong again after physical therapy at Echo Manor!!!**
- **Junior Church and Good News Club on Zoom**
- **Wednesday night Bible study** on the Holy Spirit, taking place on Zoom
- **Young family couples** on Zoom one Friday per month
- **Youth group** on Zoom 2nd and 4th Sundays

PRAYERS OF CONCERNS for:

- **Revival** to enable the Church to fulfill our call of witness. **Renewed devotion to prayer.**
- Prayers for a cure for and vaccine against **COVID-19**. For those vulnerable at high risk. For those infected. For loss of loved ones. For workers in medicine, food service, & delivery. For safety and self-sacrifice.
“I have the right to do anything,” you say – but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything” – but not everything is constructive. No one should seek their own good, but the good of others. 1Cor 10:23-24
- **Homebound Members:** Victor & Connie DeRose, Faye Hammond, Claudia Johnston, Joan Mauger, Pat Morrison, and Anne Nixon
- **Leaders** in all levels of government, health, education, businesses and the Church, for wisdom and discernment during this period pandemic, unrest and for all times.
- **Prayers against prejudice. Thankfully peaceful protests in Pataskala Monday evening.**
- **Prayers against violence, and for protection of those who protect others:**
 - **1st responders:** police officers, EMTs, and firefighters.
 - **Military: Peter Witt:** now in Kuwait, and CPO **John Vincent** also serving.
- The people of **China** and brothers & sisters in Christ, who suffer persecution there.
- **June Conrad** (Tami Conrad’s Mother-in-Law): now home following recent surgery. Prayers for the family to discern best means of caregiving.
- **Fred Goldstein:** pray for his upcoming 2nd right knee replacement scheduled for June 16th at Mount Carmel East.

- **Debbie Peters** (Jean Johnson's sister): recovering at home following removal of bladder, most of stomach, and some lymph nodes on June 8th. Freezing cancer before full cancer surgery likely sometime next week.
- **Jean Johnson: grant of disability & Dave Johnson: hope to gain back job, after Kroger claimed abandonment of position following requested day off due to migraines resulting from dental surgery (gone now) & Kroger's alteration of work schedule**
- **Lisa Johnson** (friends of Laura Miller): going thru cancer treatment for 2nd time with ovarian cancer now spread to lungs. Also, her mother in hospice for 2nd time cancer spread to her lungs. Both live in Denver, Colorado.
- **Diana Mock:** targeted treatment for cancer into October.
- **Bill Swift (Nancy Lord's brother):** that new meds for cancer will work, and that he will not need to go back on chemo.
- **Steve Upperman (Laura Miller's son's father-in-law) treatment in hospital for serious infection from a previously sustained injury.**

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.

Words of Institution, Partaking of Elements, & Prayer after Communion

Please Continue to Give in Dedication to Our Lord and Savior, Jesus

Prayer Of Dedication: *Unison*

God, in view of your mercy help us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to you, O God. Amen. *Romans 12:1*

Doxology

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqpXWF15avU>

Closing Hymn: "Holy, Holy, Holy"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6iK0Miq2xNo>

Benediction: 2Corinthians 13:14, *Responsively*

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

Amen.

Please join together again in worship next Sunday!

Table Talk:

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Acts 2:42-27

What personal Christian devotions do you participate in and when do you pray every day?
When do you join with others in study & prayer?

The two groups had similar themes in sharing. One group shared how personal prayer and meditation on God’s word occurred when performing tasks outdoors: cutting grass, gardening, walking the dog, etc. The other group shared how personal prayer and meditation occurred when being about in the community: hearing a siren, passing a hospital or school, etc. Praying during daily tasks and living is a monastic practice. Seems there was no coincidence that our opening song this Trinity Sunday was “All Creatures of Our God and Kingdom” by St. Francis of Assisi in 1225. Seems the Holy Spirit was also directing Trinity Sunday so that we moved toward God’s will in being devoted in prayer as with the first Messianic Jewish congregation of 3,000 persons following Pentecost and according to the church history of FPCP! See the key Scripture above from Sunday’s passage. This is a vow taken by new members joining a church. Are we as the congregation of FPCP keeping it?