

WORSHIP for September 20, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Please remain after 10:45am Zoom worship on 10/11 to achieve required quorum of 19 persons at **special congregational meeting** for election of: ruling elders, deacons, & nominating committee and installation into classes of 2021 & 2023.
- 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 Facebook from the homepage. To potentially increase subscribers & views,  like and  share!
- 3) 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 janetann386@gmail.com
Zoom live worship attendance: 8/2 65; 8/9 62; 8/16 57; 8/23 68; & 8/30 56, 9/6 45 (Labor day), 9/13 55, & 9/20 ?, & 9/27 ?.
- 4) **Phone chain for prayers & info**, now headed by Pat Landis (even from Arizona)! Thanks, Pat!
- 5) Please leave a message at the church office for **prayer request needs** from Th 9/24 thru Sa 10/3, since Pastor Janet will be on leave. *She thanks FPCP for the opportunity of time "away," to be spent at home with online study.*
- 6) Have **communion** elements of bread and juice of the grape vine, at table in your home on Sunday October 4th. Pastor Janet will lead us through communion on Zoom worship at 10:45am. If you need elements provided to you, call 740-901-1232 to reach the Johnsons, who lead the Christian Response Team.
- 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) **Anxiety & depression** is especially common during the stress of this time.
9/10 was suicide prevention day, and September is recovery month.
National Suicide Prevention Hotline -- 1-800-273-8255 ; **24/7 Ohio Careline**: 1-800-720-9616
Crisis Text Line -- Text 4HOPE to 741 741 to field messages about suicidal thoughts, abuse, sexual assault, depression, anxiety, bullying and more.

Prelude played by Laura Keesor, "Prelude in C Major"

Public Domain; JS Bach

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y47bqvl4yJQ&list=PLAdy2hvW6PL8_1itXDbTRrCeI331DmVVU&index=13&t=0s

Call to Worship: Psalm 105:1-4 Responsively

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.

Opening Hymn: "Immortal, Invisible"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lVwA4d44g>

Prayer of Confession: *Unison*

Lord, we pray, but confess that we are not always happy with the answer that you give, although your word tells us that you know better than anyone what is best. Your will is always for the good of all, yet we often second guess what comes to pass. We have ideas of our own, and often put them above yours. Forgive us, in Jesus' name. Amen.

(Pause for a time of silent confession.)

Assurance of Forgiveness: *Responsively*

Creator God, you know our nature. Thus, from the beginning your plan was to send your Son, who took our sin upon the cross. Then he asked that you, the Father, forgive us, since we know not what we do. We believe in your Word of life. 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

Prelude played & sung by Brent Miller, "The Prayer"

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFAQPVj8NqA&list=PLAdy2hvW6PL8_1itXDbTRrCel331DmVVU&index=2&t=0s

Hymn of Preparation: "Open My Eyes"

<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: Matthew 20:17-21, 29-34 (NIV)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+20%3A17-34&version=NIV>

SERMON: "What Do You Want?" by The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford

Watch sermon on: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAdy2hvW6PL93B6hbgswTxf93Evs575yd>

Ekklesia, the Greek word for church, means the ones called out. For we are called out to witness to the kingdom. Starting in Matthew 16 after Peter confessing Jesus as the Messiah & Son of the Living God at the foot of Mount Hermon, Jesus first mentions His Church, and his plan for the building of His Church, comprised of the ones called out to proclaim the kingdom. Jesus also explains that he must go to Jerusalem to suffer death, but also that on the 3rd day he

will be raised to life.

Peter, however, objects to God's will. He rebukes Jesus. He denies the plan of God for Jesus to die, exclaiming, "Never, Lord! This shall never happen to you!" To this "Jesus turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.'"

What of us as Jesus' disciples, do we have in mind merely human concerns or concerns of God? It is an important question that needs to be asked and answered. What do we want? In today's passages, Jesus asks this very question.

Jesus speaks of his impending death 2 more times, the final time as he and his disciples were going up to Jerusalem through Jericho. Hear again Matthew 20:17-19.

After this, the mother of James & John come to him. Hear again Matthew 20:20-24. Note how he asks, "What is it you want?" Although the mother's answer, as with Peter's objection to Jesus' impending death, does not correspond to what God wants, Jesus asks "What is it you want?" to clearly discern the motivation of the mother and her sons.

Now hear Matthew 20:29-34. Here Jesus asks the two blind men, "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord," they answered, "we want our sight." Discerning their pure motives, Jesus has compassion on them & touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight & followed him.

The men who were once blind followed him, but so did others. What did they want? Crowds followed him into Jerusalem, but they were following him, hoping to find immediate relief from Roman rule. Their mere human sight caused them to want the Messiah to come in power & might, as a military leader, not as a lamb being led to slaughter, not as a Messiah arrested, crucified, & dead. Indeed, even Peter, the rock, denied Jesus 3 times, Judas committed treason for money, & all of the disciples deserted Jesus upon the cross. Is this what everyone wanted to see? Is this what "followers" hoped for?

What about us? What do we want? Direct question. Do we want what God's wants or do we put our wants ahead of God's?

Let's look at some real life illustrations at FPCP. On 1/12/2020, on the anniversary of the baptism of the Lord, when Jesus was anointed by John in the Jordan as Messiah, we likely saw what we wanted to see in the sanctuary of FPCP, when 10 new members joined our church, including 2 adults who were baptized. What a joyful day it was. Many might have thought, I'd like to see more of this! If so go onto the church website to take another look. The sermon audio & video are out of sync, but you can still relive the joyful day at FPCP.

Then the following week on 1/19/2020 came the account of Jesus in the wilderness, the lectionary passage traditionally preached following baptism of the Lord Sunday. That sermon has a prophetic tone. Quote from book: "wilderness journeys often follow a period of new empowerment and spiritual growth." Might want to read that one on the church website again, too.

Now hear reminders of corresponding news events. In December came vague reports of an unknown virus in Wuhan, China. On 1/7 the report came of a coronavirus, with 1st death on 1/11. Starting 1/13 cases were confirmed outside of China. Two days after the 1/19 sermon, on 1/21 was the report of the 1ST corona case in US. Despite wilderness sermon on 1/19, did

we want COVID? No. 3/15 was our last worship in the sanctuary. Did we want this? No. A letter went out to inform the congregation on 3/18? Did we want this? Did we want financial falls & civil unrest, too? No. We are anxious & depressed. We want to hug. We want to hold the hands of Sally Seiberling in hospice and of those in grief. We want to visit all together up close & in person. None of us want COVID & current unrest.

Jesus asks us, "What do you want?"

Romans 8:28 proclaims, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Later Romans 12:1-2 urges, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view (*catch that? In view? That is in sight?*) ...Therefore, I urge you in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will." Is God's will what we want to see come to pass, no matter what? Do we want to see God's good, pleasing and perfect will"? Do we want to learn and grow from all things, as Romans calls them, including COVID & unrest?

In hindsight, Jesus' prophetic word of his impending death came to pass. Many saw & witnessed his death upon the cross. Evil tried to claim victory that day. Romans 12 ends w/ v. 21: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Evil was overcome with God's good. Jesus was raised to life & still lives. The church, those who love him & who are called out according to purpose, thereby, too, live. Jesus said in Mat. 16:18, "I will build my church, & the gates of Hades will not overcome it!" God's good work of his Son over the kingdom overcome evil, the evil of death, the evil of disease, & the evil of suffering. We pray thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. We need to pray, God we want what you want no matter what!

We do not want COVID, nor financial strain, nor civil unrest, but because of Jesus who came to reign & to show forth the kingdom, there is good that can come according to the Father's good purpose. God's word never fails, just as Scripture promises. His word continues to be proclaimed at FPCP. According to the MIF that was supplied by the PNC, FPCP had plans for outreach thru technology. But the plan was stalled in coming, until COVID. Then thru a new member with IT knowledge, a new pastor and another member willing to learn, we Zoomed into new technology, wanted or not. Thereby we gained more in attendance with virtual live worship, averaging at least 10 more persons per week than before COVID & still growing. With services on YouTube, there are also nearly 20 more subscribers who watch recent or past recorded services. That's 30! Also those who have hearing difficulties can read orders of worship & sermon manuscripts on the website. Those homebound or at a distance, who could not before, now attend worship. Numerous people are thankful for all of these, & plead for them to continue. Also on Zoom CE has been offered for elementary ages thru adult, including the outreach of Good News club even with schools closed to us. Further, on 5/24 3 additional new members joined FPCP. During COVID, we are growing spiritually & numerically! This we have long wanted & can see in 2020, though there has been much in 2020 we do not want. But when, like the blind men in today's passage, we set our sight & turn our eyes upon Jesus,

we set our wants aside for what good God wants us to gain. Help us, Jesus, for we want to see what you want us to see. We want to see you! Amen.

Hymn of Response: "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nO4ulyz_d90

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

Send requests to Pastor Janet's email janetann386@gmail.com or call or text 412-877-8310.

- Those celebrating **birthdays and anniversaries.**

(Look in back of church directory to send cards and to extend blessings and prayers.)

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.

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: "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Bm0b1745vA>

Benediction: *Responsively*

With sight given by Jesus through his Word, we follow him, taking his Word into the world, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

TABLE TALK

Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

Matthew 20:34

What has Jesus helped us to see?