



## WORSHIP for November 8, 2020

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) 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!
- 2) 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 [fpcofpataskala@gmail.com](mailto:fpcofpataskala@gmail.com)
- 3) 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.
- 4) **Give to FPCP** while shopping for Christmas or for any time at smile.amazon.com. .5% of purchases go to FPCP, when you register for FPCP by going to this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1143651>

**When shop thru smile.amazon.com**, donations work like Kroger points.

But for the church to get credit, you have to enter thru the link the first time, before shopping under your amazon account.

**5) One "Zoom" Schoolhouse for all ages 10-10:30am Sundays** as we **"Walk with Jesus Thru Israel"** with photos from Pastor Janet's 2008 trip to the Holy Land and corresponding study of Scripture **starts 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent 11/29.**

**6) "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:5**  
**Please bring a candle** to light during zoom worship during Advent thru Christmas **11/29-12/24.** The candle may be real or battery operated.

**6) A memorial fund for Sally Seiberling** has been established **for the purpose of handicapped accessibility.** To contribute, denote Seiberling memorial in the memo area of your check and/or on your envelope. Also, if you have needs due to disability, please advise FPCP.

**7) Please deposit by morning of Nov 29 New or Gently Used Shoes** into plastic bin outside church under overhang @ red doors of FPCP in front of elevator. The shoe collection helps ecologically & will also be sent to help micro-businesses in developing nations around the world. In addition, the effort helps fundraising for local community efforts @ Beechwood Parks and Pool.

**Call to Worship:** Psalm 18:31-36 *Responsively*

*For who is God besides the Lord? And who is the Rock except our God?*

**It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure. He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he causes me to stand on the heights. He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze. You make your saving help my shield, and your right hand sustains me; your help has made me great. You provide a broad path for my feet, so that my ankles do not give way.**

Opening Hymn: **"Eternal Father Strong to Save"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hi3NUEjYd0>

## **RECOGNITION OF VETERANS**

**Air Force:** Mike Bernstein

**Army:** Jon Davis, Frank Gieseck;

**Marines:** Tom Johnston;

**Navy:** Curt Hungerford, Mike Lightle, Rob Rawls, Dale Seiberling, Robert Wooldridge;

**Ohio Army National Guard:** Captain Peter Witt,

Commander of the 148<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company, currently actively deployed;

***Prelude played & sun by Brent Miller, "The Prayer"***

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[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFAQPVj8NqA&list=PLAdy2hvW6PL8\\_1itXDbTRrCel331DmVVU&index=2&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFAQPVj8NqA&list=PLAdy2hvW6PL8_1itXDbTRrCel331DmVVU&index=2&t=0s)

**PRAYERS of Joy and Concern, followed by:**

**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.**

**Prayer of Confession: *Unison***

**Lord, we confess that we think we can and should pick our own battles, when you are the commander in chief. Forgive us. Forgive us, too, when we rely on our own strength and skill rather than you, for only you can save, O Christ. Amen.**

*(Pause now for a time of silent confession.)*

**Assurance of Forgiveness: Psalm 18:1-2 *Responsively***

*"The Lord is rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise,*

*and I have been saved from my enemies." 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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgcYD_m4OhU)

**Hymn of Preparation: "God of Our Fathers"**

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

**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: 2 Timothy 2:1-13

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+timothy+1%3A15-2%3A13&version=NIV>

#### **SERMON: "Soldiers of Christ" by The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford**

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

Today we recognize our veterans, who serve or have served in the US military. Especially those, who also serve Christ Jesus, following him as Lord, trying to please him as their commander in chief. In preparing for today's sermon, I read the Wartime Diaries of the late Perry Kendall Smith. Upon his return as a WWII POW, Perry later directed the FPCP choir for 16 years. This was after he attended OSU, where he met Sally Wayne, who he married. After Perry passed, Sally Smith became Sally Seiberling, having married Dale Ser, who is with us today as we remember Sally in a brief service in witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ following worship.

20 years ago, Sally and two mutual friends, Phyllis & Nina compiled and edited Perry's Wartime Diaries from 1942-1945. I got a copy of the memoirs from Sally just after I preached the Veteran's day sermon last year. Perry's writing provides excellent illustrations for today's message, corresponding with our Scripture reading from 2 Timothy.

Concerning the POW camp, Perry journals on 3/12/1945, "It is impossible to relate a vivid story of this camp to anyone not having seen it. I probably will never attempt it. An excellent artist might portray the atmosphere; but only an observer can feel the full impact of it all." Still I extract from Perry's memoirs to give this brief introduction of Perry's experience in War World II. Having been drafted, Perry entered service in the US Army Air Force on 9/14/1942. In 3/43 Perry was assigned to his permanent combat crew, positioned in the plane ball turret. A year after entry, he arrived at base in England and a few days after began firing practice in a bomb group squadron. On 10/14/1943 his plane was shot down returning home from a bombing raid of a bearings plant in Germany. The day, referred to as Black Thursday, was the single greatest 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force loss in the European air war. In the case of Perry's plane, the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> engines were hit, forcing all onboard to parachute out near the French border. Once captured, Perry was taken as prisoner of war in Stalag XVII B with unsatisfactory conditions according to Geneva standards. Mail to bring hope from home was long & sparse in coming. There was not sufficient coal for heat. Neither were food, water, and clothing rations adequate. The camp was already overcrowded at 2600, later occupied by over 4000. In 3/1945 Perry wrote, "This period of meager rations will separate the men from the children. I'll know when I hear a fellow crying who previously so arrogantly stated his ruggedness and heroism. Conversations are now primarily directed toward food and starvation."

How did Perry bear these difficult conditions? Perry reports the importance of mental control. Some other ways were thru music and reading. Of course, one means for coping was his journaling, which revealed his faith. Perry also wrote poetry. One was this prayer:  
Oh Lord, I want to say goodbye To Alpine hills and the Austrian Sky

I want to lay me down to sleep In land that friendly faces keep.  
I ask to cast it all away, The barracks' walls of dirty gray,  
The dinner set of common tin That marks the wealth of humbled men.  
I want my troubled thoughts to be A long delightful rhapsody  
And when I hear a speaker shout, Please let them throw the game ball out.  
I want this fence of tangled strands To be the kind on farming lands  
That hold the lowing herd at bay, No guns or towers to make them stay.  
I wonder if you could arrange Some garments for occasional change  
Or slip us some small tasty dish, Just anything will fill the wish.  
Perhaps I shouldn't ask for much, But you know all about these "Dutch",  
They give us everything that's bad And nothing like we've ever had.  
I know the chaplain tried to do The list of things set up by you,  
But here it's quite a lengthy task So I thought maybe I should ask.  
If you would watch us from the sky And check our weekly brew supply  
I know morale will never fall, But mostly, get us home, that's all.

Perry's faith seemed to enable him to endure, just as Paul who was sustained as a prisoner in Rome, writing letters from prison to encourage others in the faith.

Another similarity between Paul & Perry was their observation of how people respond differently to harsh situations. Just as with Jesus, Paul was deserted by some. Yet others offered him refreshment, while he was in chains. In contrast, while Perry & Paul were "being chained like a criminal," God's word is not chained. For one thing, God's word lives thru those of us who endure in living according to the way of Jesus, those who remain faithful. Those who follow Christ in living according to his word. Both Paul & Perry notice that there are those who do & don't. As Paul holds to a higher standard those who are part of the faith, Perry was sometimes troubled by the behavior of fellow Americans even more than those who were his enemies in the war. One extreme example was when after his release of how 2 GI's threw into the river to drown a kind guard at the Stalag, who couldn't swim.

Paul, too, held his fellow Jews at a high standard. At first his attitude showed as hatred toward fellow Jews, who followed Jesus. He treated them as betrayers to the faith, breathing out murderous threats against them, and working toward harsh punishment for them. Though Paul began to follow Jesus, he harshly criticized John Mark. John Mark was a young soldier of Christ, who deserted Paul & Barnabas during their mission journey. And for soldiers desertion is not forgiven. However, in gaining more maturity, Mark became a strong ally, helping Paul in his time of imprisonment. In fact, at the end of the letter in 4:11 Paul asks Timothy, "Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry." John Mark also penned the Gospel of Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> written. Paul later referred to Mark as he did to Timothy as a son in the faith. Paul eventually forgave & appreciated Mark. Forgiveness is an important theme.

Just as Jesus who suffered betrayal by Jewish religious leaders and the twelve, his closest disciples and friends. Yet on the cross, Jesus prayed for his enemies and those who betrayed him, "Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do." This too followers of Jesus should do.

Perry states in his memoirs, "To hate is foolish... hating is like putting vinegar into ice cream." Perry also writes, "People are reluctant to think, but POW life forced the issue for many. Those who were children either grew up or became worse. Life was whirling by, but there was much to salvage if the right strainer was used. There were many attitudes in action... Versions of... every extreme, but the one that I held was this: I have the time to spend. It's my time no matter where I am or what I am doing. It's my life to live so I'll live it... I could filter the good from the pile of scraps & benefit from it even with the confines of POW life."

Following 2Timothy, messages will be offered from Paul's prison letters. These began to be written by me when we, in varying degrees, were confined to our homes during COVID-19. Paul & Perry might ask of us, how have we grown during this time of confinement? How has our time been spent? Have we reflected upon & grown in our faith? Or has our faith diminished during these difficult times? Paul writes, "Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this." Indeed, Jesus has given insight. During his ministry on earth, as recorded in the gospels, Jesus spoke of the end times to come. In Mt 24, in Mk 13, in Lk 12. Of times of war, & testing of faith. He told us ahead of time to expect these and more. We are in the end times. COVID-19, civil unrest, financial hardship, and more are part of the end times. How will we respond to them, based upon Jesus' teachings?

Paul exhorts each of us to be a good soldier of Christ Jesus, who tries to please his commanding officer. And also like an athlete who competes according to the rules, like soldiers trained at boot camp and those in school sports such as Perry coached upon his return home. And like a hardworking farmer, remembered by Perry who wanted to get back to the farmland of Ohio, according to his poem & prayer. But, of course, our true home is not here on earth, neither in prison camp or Ohio farms. Our true home is with Jesus in heaven, where we live & reign with him. On that final note, let each of us be a good soldier of Christ Jesus, enduring while we wait for his coming to take us home, just as he has done with those whom have departed before us, like Paul, like numerous veterans who died in service and following, like Perry, and now like Sally and other believers who have gone preceding us into our eternal home with Christ. Amen.

### **Hymn of Response: "Onward Christian Soldiers"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=64K7HmLM54Y>

**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: "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r11Gmdq\\_-8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r11Gmdq_-8)

**Benediction:** *Responsively*

As a soldier of Christ, go forth into the world to proclaim the Gospel of Christ, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Brief Service in Witness to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ in memory of Sally Seiberling**

**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 40

**Closing Hymn: "On Eagle's Wings"**

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