24th Sunday After Pentecost



10 A. M. Worship for Sunday, November 12, 2023

First Memorial Presbyterian Church of Dover, New Jersey

***Gathering and Focusing during Prelude:*** **- Loretta Suttles**

***Thank you for choosing to worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with us today!***

***\*We invite you to stand if you are able for those portions of the liturgy marked with an asterisk.***

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***Sung Approach to Worshiping Our God:*** **-** **Loretta Suttles**

 All:*CHORUS:* ***He who began a good work in you,***

 ***He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it***

 ***He’ll be faithful to complete it,***

 ***He who started the work will be faithful to complete it in you.***

 *VERSE:* ***If the struggle you’re facing***

 ***is slowly replacing your hope with despair,***

 ***Or the process is long, and you’re losing your song in the night.***

 ***You can be sure that the Lord has his hand on you,***

 ***safe and secure, He will never abandon you,***

 ***you are his treasure, and he finds his pleasure in you.***

 *(repeat chorus)*

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 Found in RENEW! SONGS & HYMNS for BLENDED WORSHP, Hymn No. 134.

***Opening Words:***

 Alan: O taste and see that the Lord is good;

 Happy are those who take refuge in God.

All: ***With hearts and hands and voices,*** - Psalm 34:8

 ***let us praise the Lord.***

- The Opening Words (above) are as found on pages 233. of Feasting On the Word, Liturgies for Year A, vol.2.

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***Call to Confession:***

Alan**:** In the face of God’s goodness we recognize our failings.

 Hungry for God’s mercy, let us tell the truth about our lives,

 that we might receive grace in time of need.

***Corporate Prayer of Confession:***

Alan: Gracious God, you call us your own children

 and cover us with your love.

 We would seek to be (as) merciful as you are,

 and to show compassion as you do,

 but we fail to live the life to which we have been called.

 Where we ought to forgive, we condemn;

 the evil we should shun, we embrace.

 Forgive our sinful ways, tame our wayward wills,

 and make us more like Christ,

 until we are raised in perfection on the last day.

All: ***Amen…***

*(We pause here for a few moments of silent, personal confession…)*

***Assurance of Pardon:***

Alan: Sisters and brothers,

 no one who takes refuge in God will be condemned.

 Believe the good news!

 In Jesus Christ WE ARE FORGIVEN.

 All:**(*Thanks be to God!*** ***Amen.)***

- The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon (above) are as found on pages 233 & 234.

 of Feasting On the Word, Liturgies for Year A, vol.2.

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***\*Hymn of Praise No. 341:*** – Fanny Jane Crosby, 1873

“Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!”

***\*A Historic Confession of Faith:***

 All: ***I BELIEVE IN GOD, the Father almighty,***

 ***creator of heaven and earth.***

 ***I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, God’s only Son, our Lord,***

 ***who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,***

 ***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,***

 ***he is seated at the right hand of the Father,***

 ***and he will come 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.***

- THE APOSTLES’ CREED (Ecumenical Translation)

***\*Celebrating the Peace Jesus Came to Bring:***

**- Rev. Alan R. Schaefer**

Alan: Christians in the United States are belittled for our faith

 by people as close as next door.

 All: ***Christians around the world are imprisoned, or killed,***

 ***by people of other faiths, and by people with no faith.***

Alan: Yet God calls us from east and west, and from north and south,

 to sit at his table in ‘the Kingdom of Heaven.’

 All: ***God calls us here and now to share in the feast of love***

 ***which offers us peace with God and with each other.***

 Alan: Without moving from where you now stand,

 please take the next few moments to share a warm greeting

 and a sincere sign of God’s peace with those around you.

***Choral Anthem:*** “We Gather Together”- Unknown

***Children’s Message:*** **- Megan Quinones**

***Sung Prayer for Illumination:***   - Philip P. Bliss

1. ***Sing them over again to me, Wonderful words of Life;***

 ***Let me more of their beauty see,***

 ***Wonderful words of Live.***

 ***Words of life and beauty, Teach me faith and duty…***

 Refrain: ***Beautiful words, wonderful words,***

 ***Wonderful words of Life.*** (repeat)

1. ***Christ, the blessed One, gives to all***

 ***Wonderful words of Life;***

 ***Sinner, listen to the loving call, Wonderful words of life.***

 ***All so freely given, Wooing us to heaven—***

 ***(***Refrain w/repeat)

1. ***Sweetly echo the gospel call, Wonderful words of Life;***

 ***Offer pardon and peace to all,***

 ***Wonderful words of Life.***

 ***Jesus, only Savior, Sanctify forever.***

 ***(***Refrain w/repeat)

 - Words & Music by Philip P. Bliss—Now in the public domain**. Hymn No 406 in THE CELEBRATION HYMNAL**

***Scripture Lesson:* - Megan Quinones**

 ***The Book of the Psalms***

 ***No. 1, verses 1 thru 6***

**Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church… -** Revelation 2:7

 1 Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,

 or take the path that sinners tread,

 or sit in the seat of scoffers;

 2 but their delight is in the law of the Lord,

 and on his law they meditate day and night.

 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,

 which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.

 In all that they do, they prosper.

 4 The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,

 nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

 6 for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,

 but the way of the wicked will perish.

- THE NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION (of the Bible-a translation)

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Megan:This is the Word of the Lord…

 All: ***Thanks be to God!***

***Adult Message:* - Rev. Alan R. Schaefer**

***“Saints”***

***Text: Psalm 1: 3 —***They are like trees planted by streams of water,

 which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.

 In all that they do, they prosper.

***Call for the Offering and Prayer of Dedication:***

Alan:We are grateful to have you with us as we worship together

 on this twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost,

 and for this year, the second Sunday after All Saint’s Day;

 and we hope you can be stewardship partners with us

 in our ministry as you have been partners with us in our worship,

 whether here, in our sanctuary,

 or somewhere safe or convenient to you on your computer.

 If you worshiped with us on your computer, and are able

 and willing, please consider mailing an offering to our church

 office this week @ 51 West Blackwell Street, Dover NJ 07801.

 *Invitation to the offering:*

 How can we withhold our gifts of gratitude

 in the face of such wondrous love?

 With glad and generous hearts, let us bring our offerings to God.

 Let us pray…

 We magnify your name, O God, and together exalt your name,

 for you are so good to us and gracious beyond measure.

 In this life you lead us, comfort us, guide us,

 and redeem us in countless ways.

 In death you usher us to even greater blessings,

 Bringing us through the great ordeal,

 embracing us in your endless light,

 and welcoming us to your table of goodness and plenty.

 These gifts we bring are but a token of our thanks,

 seeds to be planted for the growing of your kingdom,

 in which we have sure and certain hope.

 In Jesus’ name we pray.

 All:  ***Amen.***

- The Invitation to the Offering & Prayer of Dedication (as above) are as found on page 235 & 236

 of Feasting On the Word, Liturgies for Year A, vol.2.

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***Offertory:*** Instrumental **- Loretta Suttles**

***Remembering & Lighting Candles for Some of Our Saints:***

Alan: **On this day when we belatedly celebrate All Saints’ Day,**

 **I invite you to come forward, name and light a candle**

 **for those who have been the light of God’s love for you**

 **through their words or deeds of encouragement, instruction,**

 **affection or forgiveness,**

 **thus enabling his light to shine forth from you to others.**

 **If you are comfortable to do so, please come forward,**

 **one person or family at a time, announce the name**

 **of the person or persons you are remembering**

 **whom God has now taken home to that house in heaven**

 **not made with human hands, and place a lighted candle**

 **on the communion table in one of the holes provided.**

 **You can either just say you are remembering someone by name,**

 **or add a brief description of how that person acted as the light**

 **of Christ for you after the symbolism of Kurt Kaiser’s well-**

 **known praise hymn which begins with the words,**

 **“It only takes a spark, to get a fire going.**

 **And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.**

 **That’s how it is with God’s love, once you’ve experienced it.**

 **You spread his love to everyone, you want to pass it on.”**

 **For example: I am remembering the light of God’s love**

 **as shown to me by my sister Ellen, my mother Ruth,**

 **my father Bob, my Grandmother Ellen, my Youth Minister**

 **Dick Gibbins, and my Foster Son Marshall, to name but a few…**

***Remembering Our Saints in Prayer:***

Alan: **O God of Adam and Eve, and all subsequent generations,**

 **we thank you and praise you that we are the beneficiaries,**

 **the inheritors, of the faith of those whom you sent into our lives,**

 **to demonstrate the reality of your love to us.**

 **It is hard to imagine a better way to be introduced to you**

 **as you mean yourself to be introduced,**

 **Bless us to be a blessing in Jesus’ name.**

***Remembering Our Saints in Seated Song—Hymn No. 526:***

“For All the Saints” - William Walsham How, 1864

***Joys and Concerns:***

***Prayers of and for the People and Lord’s Prayer:***

Alan: …

 All: ***…Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name…***

***\*Hymn of Parting No. 364:***  - Lesbia Scott, 1929; adapted

“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

***\*Charge and Benediction:***

Alan:This day, and every day, O taste and see that the Lord is good.

 (And) may the God of hope keep you

 until Christ comes to take us all home.

 Amen?

 All: ***Amen.***

- The Charge & Benediction (above) are as found on pages 231 & 232.

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***Postlude:* - Loretta Suttles**

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Unless otherwise noted, most of the bulletin / liturgy is written by the Pastor, the Rev. Mr. Alan R. Schaefer, H. R.



**OUR NEXT LORD’S DAY CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE ON DECEMBER 3, 2023,**

***IN THE SANCTUARY.***

**FIRST MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND CONGREGATION**

**51 West Blackwell Street, Dover, NJ 07801**

**A member congregation of Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey,**

**The Synod of the Northeast, and**

**The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.**

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