25th Sunday After Pentecost



10 A. M. Worship for Sunday, November 19, 2023

First Memorial Presbyterian Church of Dover, New Jersey

***Gathering and Focusing during Prelude:*** **- Rachel Persenaire**

***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.***

xx

***Sung Approach to Worshiping Our God:*** **- Rachel Persenaire**

 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:* - Rachel Persenaire**

Rachel: **Clothe yourself with faith and love;** - 1st Thessalonians 5:88

 **be confident in your salvation in Christ Jesus.**

All: ***The Lord is with us! Let us worship God.***

- The Opening Words (above) are as found on pages 248. of Feasting On the Word, Liturgies for Year A, vol.2.

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***Call to Confession:***

Alan**: (Precious Saints,) God has not destined us for wrath,**

 **but for salvation in Jesus, who died for us.**

 **Confident in God’s mercies, let us confess our sin…**

***Corporate Prayer of Confession:***

Alan: **(Join your hearts with mine as I pray…)**

 **Almighty God, you have shown us the ways of justice**

 **and nurtured us with love.**

 **Even so, we have not lived according to your will.**

 **When we are oppressed or unjustly accused,**

 **we cling to fear and forget to trust in your deliverance.**

 **When we are giddy with power and abuse the rights of others,**

 **we hold tight to our privilege and forget your laws.**

 **Have mercy on us, Lord,**

 **for we are weak and prone to disobedience.**

 **Hear our confession, and respond to us with kindness,**

 **that we might turn to you again, walk in the light,**

 **and live in equity and peace; through Jesus Christ we pray.**

All: ***Amen…***

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

***Assurance of Pardon:***

Alan: **Children of light, because we belong to our Lord Jesus Christ,**

 **we need not fear—for he lived for us, he died for us,**

 **he was raised for us and (he) prays for us.**

 **Believe the promise of your baptism:**

 **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 248 & 249.

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

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***\*Hymn of Praise No. 383:*** – Ray Palmer, 1830

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

***\*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:*** “Now Thank We All Our God”- Rinkart

***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 Gospel According to Matthew***

 ***Chapter 25: verses 14 thru 27***

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

14 **For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves**

 **and entrusted his property to them;**

15 **to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one,**

 **to each according to his ability.**

 **Then he went away.**

16 **The one who had received the five talents went off at once**

 **and traded with them and made five more talents.**

17 **In the same way,**

 **the one who had the two talents made two more talents.**

18 **But the one who had received the one talent**

 **went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.**

19 **After a long time the master of those slaves**

 **came and settled accounts with them.**

20 **Then the one who had received the five talents came forward,**

 **bringing five more talents, saying,**

 **‘Master, you handed over to me five talents;**

 **see, I have made five more talents.**

21 **His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave;**

 **you have been trustworthy in a few things,**

 **I will put you in charge of many things;**

 **enter into the joy of your master.’**

22 **And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying,**

 **‘Master, you handed over to me two talents;**

 **see, I have made two more talents.’**

23 **His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave;**

 **you have been trustworthy in a few things,**

 **I will put you in charge of many things;**

 **enter into the joy of your master.’**

24 **Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward,**

 **saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man,**

 **reaping where you did not sow,**

 **and gathering where you did not scatter seed;**

25 **so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground.**

 **Here you have what is yours.’**

26 **But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave!**

 **You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow,**

 **and gather where I did not scatter?**

27 **Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers,**

 **and on my return I would have received what was my own**

 **with interest.**

- 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**

***“Enter Into the Joy of Your Master!”***

***Text: Matthew 25: 23 —*****His master said to him, ‘Well done, good**

 **and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few**

 **things, I will put you in charge of many things;**

 **enter into the joy of your master.’**

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

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

 **on this twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost;**

 **and we hope you will 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:***

 **God has entrusted us with a variety of gifts;**

 **let us return to the Lord a generous measure of our bounty**

 **with thanksgiving and praise.**

 **Let us pray…**

 **For all that you are and all that you do,**

 **we give you thanks, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.**

 **We wait in hope for the coming of your realm**

 **and offer these gifts to further your kingdom on earth;**

 **in Jesus’ name.**

All:  ***Amen.***

- The Invitation to the Offering & Prayer of Dedication (as above) are as found on page 251

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

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***Offertory:* - Rachel Persenaire**

 “Gratitude”- Lake/Bowe/Hastings

***Joys and Concerns:***

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

Alan: **…God of Grace,**

 All: ***hear our prayer.***

Alan: **…God of Grace,**

 All: ***hear our prayer.***

Alan: **…God of Grace,**

 All: ***hear our prayer.***

Alan: **…God of Grace,**

 All: ***hear our prayer.***

Alan: **…God of Grace,**

 All: ***hear our prayer.***

Alan: **…God of Grace,**

 All: ***hear our prayer.***

Alan: **…God of Grace,**

 All: ***hear our prayer.***

Alan: **…God of Grace,**

 All: ***hear our prayer.***

Alan: **…God of Grace,**

 All: ***hear our prayer.***

Alan: **All this we pray with gratitude for your eternal love**

 **and extravagant grace; in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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

- The Prayers of and for the People (as above) are as found on page 250

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

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***\*Hymn of Parting No. 391:***  - Frances Ridley Havergal, 1874

“Take My Life”

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

Alan:**(I charge you…) to encourage one another**

 **and build each other up,**

 **faithfully working together for the kingdom of God,**

 **as we await the day of Christ’s coming.**

 **(And) May the God of creation**

 **work wonders in you by the power of the Holy Spirit,**

 **until we enter together the joy of our Master.**

 **Amen?**

 All: ***Amen.***

- The Charge & Benediction (above) are as found on pages 25 of Feasting On the Word, Liturgies for Year A, vol.2.

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***Postlude:* - Rachel Persenaire**

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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,**

***THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 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.**