



Greetings Everyone — Today is Sunday, July 26th. It is the 17th Sunday in ordinary time. We have a full newsletter this week. Reminder to everyone that your input is always welcome. Whether you have a story, an announcement, a prayer request, or a blessing. Please to not hesitate to reach out. There is a brief reflection on current COVID data for NJ vs the nation at large at the bottom of page 4 after Rev. Kraft's essay. God's Blessing to you all!

**A Hymn for a Church
Yearning for Reopening**

Rev. Dr. James Kraft (7/17/20)

I am quite sure that most Christians in our country have never been this long without being able to attend public worship. We have had to do with virtual services since mid-March. How has our faith been affected? Most of us yearn for reopening with a full congregation when it is safe to do so. For the sake of full spiritual health, we should yearn for that. Christianity is not an Individualistic faith – it is communal. We are the body of Christ and individually members of that body. We need each other to be fully engaged with Christ.

About 3,000 years ago a Psalmist, separated from his community of faith and place of worship cried out to God. The result is Psalm 42 and 43, which are really one hymn. This is a hymn for a Church yearning for reopening.

**Psalms 42-43
Stanza 1**



As the deer pants for streams of water, so I long for you, O God. I thirst for God, the living God.

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Cherish What You Have

Barbara Hammell

Some things you keep. Like good teeth, warm coats, bald husbands and chubby wives. They're good for you, reliable and practical and so sublime that to throw them away would make the garbage man a thief. So you hang onto the older gifts, because something old is sometimes better than something new, and what you know is often better than a stranger. These are my thoughts, they make me sound old, old and tame and dull at a time when everybody else is frisky and racy and flashing all that's new and improved in their lives.



I grew up in the fifties with practical parents – a mother, God bless her, who washed aluminum foil after she cooked in it, then reused it and still does. A father who was happier getting old shoes fixed than buying new ones and weeding in the yard.



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**Elemental Christianity:
Contentment
Randy York**

At the peak of his wealth back in the 1890's, John D. Rockefeller had a net worth equal to 1% of the entire American economy. He owned 90% of the oil and gas industry at the time. He was once asked, "How much money is enough?" He answered, "Just a little bit more."

Last week, I offered a Christian Periodic Table of Elements, specific building blocks of our walk with God. Today I would like to consider the element Ct or contentment. You



may question its importance and if it indeed belongs on the chart. You might think that

being comfortable in what we have does not seem to be a big reach. I would remind you of God's chosen folks, the Israelites. God freed them from the bondage of Egypt and led them on a journey to the Promised Land. Along the way they continually and joyfully praised and thanked God. Not exactly. They pretty much sang along with Brother Jagger when he crooned about "getting no satisfaction." The Book of Numbers describes how they murmured and complained against God until they so exasperated him that he threatened to destroy them. They accused God of mishandling their lives and demanded that he give them what they wanted. Sound familiar?

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Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

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A Hymn...

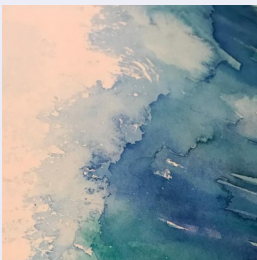
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When can I come and stand before him? Day and night, I have only tears for food, while my enemies continually taunt me, saying, "Where is this God of yours?" My heart is breaking as I remember how it used to be: I walked among the crowds of worshipers, leading a great procession to the house of God, singing for joy and giving thanks—it was the sound of a great celebration!

[Refrain] Why am I discouraged? Why so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again — my Savior and my God!

Stanza 2

Now I am deeply discouraged, but I will remember your kindness — from Mount Hermon, the source of the Jordan, from the land of Mount Mizar. I hear the tumult of the raging seas as your waves and surging tides sweep over me. Through each day the LORD pours his unfailing love upon me, and through each night I sing his songs, praying to God who gives me life. "O God my rock," I cry, "Why have you forsaken me? Why must I wander in darkness, oppressed by my enemies?" Their taunts pierce me like a fatal wound. They scoff, "Where is this God of yours?"



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Cherish...

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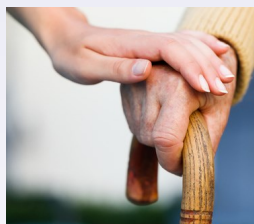
They weren't poor, my parents, they were just satisfied. Their marriage was good, their dreams focused. Their best friends lived barely a wave away. I can see them now, Fifties couples in Bermuda shorts and Balon sweaters, lawnmower in one hand, tools in the other. The tools were for fixing things – a curtain rod, the kitchen radio, screen door, the oven door, and hem in a dress.



Things you keep. It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy. All that re-fixing, reheating, renewing, I wanted just once to be wasteful. Waste meant affluence. Throwing things away meant there'd always be more.

But when my mother died, and on that clear winter morning, I was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any "more." Sometimes what you care about most gets all used up and goes away, never to return.

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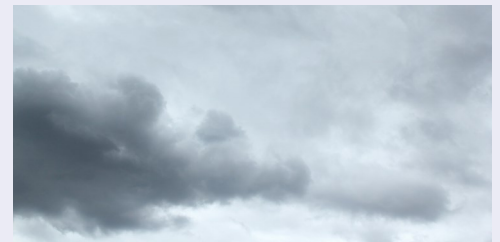
Contentment...

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For our 30th anniversary, Barbara and I travelled to Hawaii. One of our stops was on the Big Island of Hawaii and I booked us on a star-gazing tour on Mauna Kea. The mountain was touted as providing some of the best views of the night skies in the world. My expectations were set very high because of all the pictures I had seen and I was



ready to view that majesty first hand. When we arrived at the crest of the mountain, even though there were thousands of stars visible, more than my eyes had ever beheld, I felt disappointed because of the hopes I had set. A photographer in our tour explained to me that photographs have more clarity since the camera allows for more light and definition than does the human eye at night. Then a cloud came over the sky, as if God was saying, "Now how many stars do you see?" The want of the 'wow'



camera photo took me away from the 'now' experience God had provided. He provided an amazing night sky but I thought I needed more. Later that evening, I thanked him for the sky and the lesson.

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A Hymn...

continued from Pg. 2

[Refrain] Why am I discouraged? Why so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again—my Savior and my God!

Stanza 3

O God, take up my cause!
Defend me against these ungodly people
Rescue me from these unjust liars.
For you are God, my only safe haven.
Why have you tossed me aside?
Why must I wander around in darkness,
oppressed by my enemies?
Send out your light and your truth;
let them guide me.
Let them lead me to your holy mountain,
to the place where you live.
There I will go to the altar of God,
to God—the source of all my joy.
I will praise you with my harp,
O God, my God!



[Refrain] Why am I discouraged? Why so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again—my Savior and my God!

A Few Thoughts

The Psalmist longs for God, for a sense of God's presence in his life. He is not yearning for what he can get from God, but the living God himself that he desires. He knows that the presence of God is most keenly felt in the presence of God's people in the place of worship.

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Cherish...

continued from Pg. 2

So while you have it, it's best to love it and care for it and fix it when it's broken and heal it when it's sick. That's true for marriage and old cars and children with bad report cards and dogs with bad hips and aging parents. You keep them because they're worth it, because you're worth it. Sometimes the best gifts are the old ones that you have already received.

Receive the old gifts again, by looking around and appreciating your life, the people and the things in it.

Today, I will take some quiet moment to notice the good things in my life and I will be grateful for them.



Life is so precious, be thankful to the Lord for the gift of life he has given us. Pray to him for guidance to live our lives the way he would want us to – caring, loving, and respectful.

Contentment...

continued from Pg. 2

In what in human terms seems to be upside-down logic, the Scriptures make clear that a better life consists not in chasing wants but in being content with the Lord's provision. The psalmist did not say, "The Lord is my shepherd, I have almost everything I need." No, the way to an abundant life is to trust in God's word that if we seek his kingdom above all else, he will give us everything we need.

So, what is enough? The author of Proverbs weighing contentment in light of human nature states the case plainly:

*Give me neither poverty nor riches. Give me just enough to satisfy my needs.
For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, "Who is the LORD?"
And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God's holy name.*

For the Christian the answer to true satisfaction, the "just enough," is to know the truth Paul states in his letter to the Philippians that contentment is not dependent on the changing circumstances of life but on the unchanging goodness of the Lord.

To paraphrase Brother Jagger after repentant reflection, "You can't always get what you want, but if you try sometimes you just might find God gives you just what you need."



PS: The Burlington Food Pantry provided food for 133 families this past Wednesday





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A Hymn...

continued from Pg. 3

He speaks of enemies who taunts him, saying, "Where is this God of yours?" I guess Covid-19 might qualify as an enemy that tries our faith. However, what if the enemy who asks, "Where is your God?" were one's own doubts? When things do not run smoothly for us, when difficulties that we cannot handle arise, when tragedy strikes, we often wonder where God is in all of this. "Where is this God of yours?"

He draws on his memory with a wonderful description of what worship was and should be: "Crowds of worshipers, singing for joy and giving thanks, the sound of a great celebration!" Mostly he remembers what it is like to be with God's people. People who have the same love for the living God. Now it breaks his heart that none of that is possible.

The 2nd stanza begins with the Psalmist deeply discouraged. He reminisces about God's previous kindness that he had experienced in his hometown, where the Jordan river originates with a series of rapids. He likens those rapids to "the tumult of the raging seas as your waves and surging tides sweep over me." This is powerfully descriptive of his feelings of disquiet in his uncertain times. We can relate, but, with him, we must choose to focus on something else, "Through each day the LORD pours his unfailing love upon me, and through each night I sing his songs, praying to God who gives me life."

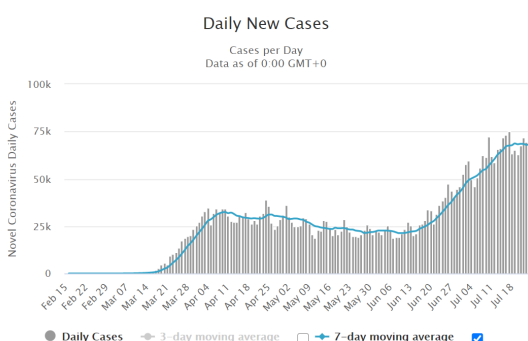
Yet, he still feels that darkness of the soul that comes to us all, "O God my rock," I cry, "Why have you forsaken me? Why must I wander in darkness?" So then he prays, O God, take up my cause! . . . For you are God, my only safe haven." He makes that prayer specific, "Send out your light and your truth; let them guide me. Let them lead me to your holy mountain, to the place where you live." For us, that 'light and truth' is most clearly found in the Scriptures. The Scriptures, like this Psalm, can sustain us with a sense of God's presence and guidance through these times.

He knows, as we know, that none of this will last forever. We will return to that place where most easily find God, in the presence of his people. There I will go to the altar of God, to God—the source of all my joy. I will praise you, O God, my God!

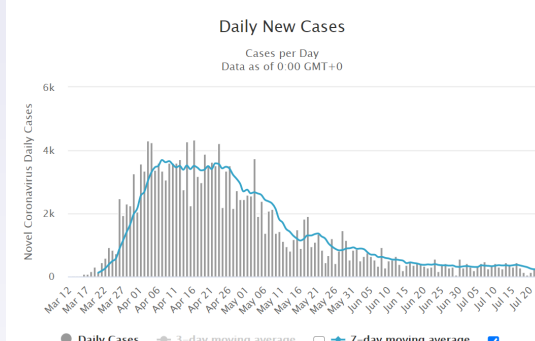
The same refrain closes each of the three stanzas, "Why am I discouraged? Why so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again—my Savior and my God!" His longing for God is shown to be the drive that sustains him through fear and torment, doubt and temptation, until he overcomes them by faith and by putting his hope in the living God who loves him.

Good News for Home Front New Jersey — The charts below show the daily new cases for the United States on the left and New Jersey on the right. Rather than the numbers, please focus on the shape of the curves here. Only New York, Connecticut & NJ have shapes that have come down precipitously from their peaks. Most every other state's curve is similar to the chart on the left starting low & rapidly rising while some are U-Shaped indicating a drop from the peak but then rising back up to high levels. NJ, NY, & CT have taken the correct precautions to keep us safe. This is strengthened by all of us doing our part to Mask, Distance, and Wash our

Daily New Cases in the United States



Daily New Cases in New Jersey



Hands. I am personally encouraged by this data for our State, but troubled for family & friends living afar where the trend is in the wrong direction. Stay vigilant, follow the guidelines, & pray humanity will come through this sooner than later. The charts presented can be found at: <https://www.worldometers.info/>



Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

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PRAYER REQUESTS



From All Of Us — Prayers for Annette Slaney & Family upon the passing of her Mother, **Anna Catharina Colijn**

Becky Jensen — For continued prayers for the **PNC** as they carry on their mission.

From All Of Us — Continued prayers for **Jeffrey Caron & the Caron Family** as they adjust to Jeffrey's diagnosis of diabetes.

Margo Mattis — For her Mother, **Jean Miller**

Marge Hull — Is Thankful for the personal sacrifices **Doctors & Nurses** are making to care for patients

From All Of Us — Continued prayers for **Wendy Kasper**

Wendy Varga — Continued prayers for her nephew, **Sean**.

Sheila Zier — Prayers for healing and strength and encouragement for her daughter, **Brittany Zier** as she is battling a serious long term disease.

Randy & Barb York — Prayers of thanks for God's provision of a suitable transplant liver for **Wendy Pearl**, and His comfort and healing strength for some tough days ahead.

The Presbyterian Women — Remembers their members who are in need of prayers as they have been unable to get out and remain housebound : **Anna Freck, Polly Grobelny, Jerrie Glass, Alice Garman, & Jean Miller**. They look forward to resuming their meetings

Betsy Reeder — Prayers for recovery for her niece **Molly**.

Robin McCarter — For her **Mother**, who is residing in the Masonic Home.

Please e-mail RickCheslo@gmail.com with your prayer requests, or pass them on to those reaching out to you.



Don't Forget We Are On YouTube! 

See vintage services from our archives. There is a new posting each week. The direct link is: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxLAXFkRJWgH8pLkGX988Bg/videos> The Link is nerdy, but you can also Google "Providence Presbyterian Church Burlington YouTube" and we rise to the top of the list. Accept no imitations! *Also Get Past Issues of this Newsletter at ProvPresCh.org*



Bustleton's Best
Church Cookbook Recipes of the Week

Country Style Eggplant Supper

Marie Celcupa

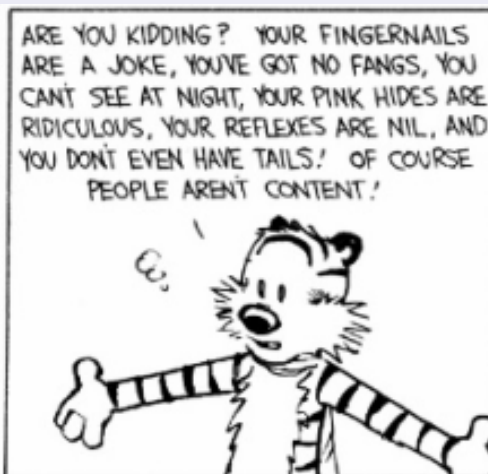
1 medium eggplant, cubed
3 t bacon drippings or cooking oil
1/2 C. diced onions
1 #2-1/2 can tomatoes, chopped
1 t. sugar
1 t. salt

1 C. buttered, coarse bread crumbs
1 t. parsley
1/2 t. chili powder
1/8 t. pepper
1/2 C. grated mozzarella cheese

Start oven at 350 degrees and grease a 2 quart baking dish. Saute eggplant in oil for five minutes in large frying pan. Pour into baking dish. Saute onions in same pan. Stir in tomatoes. Add parsley, sugar, chili powder, salt and pepper. Stir and let come to a boil. Pour over eggplant. Sprinkle with crumbs and cheese. Bake 45 minutes or until top is brown and bubbly.

The rains have come back finally and farmers everywhere are thankful. God's blessing on my humble planter boxes has them overflowing their perimeters. Peas, carrots, squash and cucumbers have been plentiful. I am now bracing for the next wave of tomatoes, eggplant, and peppers. I found Marie's delightful Country Style Eggplant recipe, and I intend to prepare it in the near future with fresh eggplant and tomatoes.

Thank you Marie!





Providence Presbyterian Church

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord



Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

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Blessings

Marge Hull — Thankful for the Rain this week!

Jen & Andy Caron — Thanks to Roland & Chuck as they gave selflessly of their time to help with their home construction projects.

Anniversaries!

Carol & Steve Shore — 52 Years on July 27th — Happy Anniversary

The Walker Family would like to extend everyone an invitation for Ethan's Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony to be held outdoors at Buttonwood Park in Eastampton. For Ethan's Eagle Scout project, he planned the project, held fund raiser car washes and erected the gazebo that now stands behind the Manse. Please extend Ethan hearty congratulations on a job well done!



Jack's Drive Thru Blessings

Come by on Sunday & take advantage of the drive-thru offering!

Seeing Joe Celkupa's Smile!

Reminder - Save a Stamp!

Come to the Drive - Thru Offering from 8:30 am to 9:00 AM and 11:00 to 11:30 AM each Sunday morning.

We average 12 to 14 cars each week. Come join the parade and Say Hey to Jack! Also don't forget to Honk or Ring Your Bell on your way out!

