



PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BUSTLETON



Providence Presbyterian Bustling's

Sunday, February 14, 2021 *Issue No. 47*

Greetings! Today is Sunday, February 14, 2021, the Sixth Sunday of Epiphany and the last Sunday before Lent.

We are resuming live worship in the sanctuary this week. Immediately following our service, we will hold our Annual Meeting Part 2, which will also be broadcast on YouTube and via Zoom so you may participate from home. So stay tuned on You Tube, and join the Zoom link. The Zoom meeting link and password is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82992867467?pwd=SVFZMjZlNWVZQ01mOXFpZnp0UjFNaQQT09>

Meeting ID: 829 9286 7467 Passcode: 976077

Additionally we will be having an Ash Wednesday service this week on February 17th at 7:00 PM. This service will be available in person and online. Reverend Kraft will be conducting the service.

PS - If you have not picked up your envelopes, please send a note or call the office and we will make arrangements to get them to you.

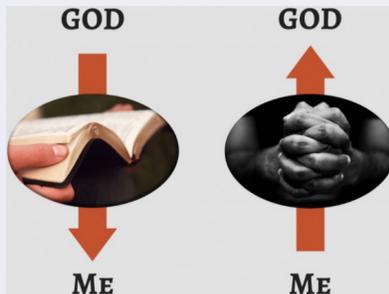
Nothing's Plenty For Me

Randy York - Florence, NJ - February 14, 2021

As we attend worship this Sunday, we stand at the doorway of another Lenten season. Lent offers the church a time to prepare for a common journey to Easter. Some folks view the time in a penitential way by giving up things. Others sacrificially by doing something extra to meet a need. There are also those who take the spiritual road and make use of a daily devotional. As we stand before Ash Wednesday, might I suggest a different path?

Nothing. Not giving up, not doing more, not taking on. Nothing, not in the sense of total inaction, but perhaps in the uncomfortable idea of sitting quietly before God. Not striving, but instead resting. Resting and listening.

Ah! listening that intimate part of a relationship that too often I define as waiting for my turn to speak. This listening rather is as the ancient mystic Noah Webster defined, "to hear with thoughtful attention." It requires a deliberate choice to shut out the busyness around us and focus on God. It is darn near impossible for most of us to sit still, what with all we must deal with. The key word though is "must." If we weigh what must be done against drawing closer to our Abba Father God, the list should dissipate quickly. It could prove difficult at first, so perhaps I should rethink the notion of "doing nothing." The reward though, a stronger, fuller relationship with a God of unconditional love



and grace, is priceless. So how can we listen? The answer may be found in a story from Brennan Manning's wonderful book, *Abba's Child*:

A Jewish couple had a son after many years of trying and he was a great joy for them! They named him Mordecai. Mordecai was a rambunctious, zestful boy who had a love of life. When he was old enough, his parents sent him to the synagogue to learn the word of God. They stressed to him how important it was to learn God's word and that without knowledge of it his life would be less. He listened but the next day he never arrived at the synagogue instead he found himself walking in the woods, swimming in the lake, and climbing the trees. By the time he got home, news of his antics had spread all through the village, everyone knew of his shame. His parents were at a loss as to what to do. They called in an expert to modify Mordecai's behavior. But the next day he found himself walking in the woods, swimming in the lake and climbing trees.



His parents grieved for their son and felt there was simply no hope for him. As it happened the Great Rabbi was visiting the village and the parents of Mordecai went to him in desperation. They told him the story and the Rabbi invited them to leave Mordecai with him.

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



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Prayer Requests

Prayer Requests will be added each week by your requests, and will run for two weeks unless a request to continue is received.

From all of us – For the Solymosi family. Prayers for God’s comfort as they grieve the loss of a dear family member.

From Becky Jensen – For continued prayers for the PNC as they carry on their mission.

From Betsy Reeder – For Joel who is in need of a bone marrow transplant.

From Rick Cheslo – In memory of his Father, John Cheslo.

God’s blessing to all who sacrifice their time and talent to keep our church active in the community and open for worship.

For success for our drive to provide boxed cereal to children in need led by Wendy Varga.

To remember that prayer is a conversation with a God of amazing grace. That after we reach out to Him, we will make time to be still and listen.



Jerrie Glass would like to reactivate the Flower Book. Anyone who wishes to put flower in church for any Sunday Service, please Jerrie at (856) 906-2284, and she will help you to make that happen.



Please mark your calendars for the following Lenten/Easter Season services:

Ash Wednesday — February 17, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Maundy Thursday — April 1, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Good Friday — April 2, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday — April 4, 2021 at 9:00 AM

Additional details will be released as they become available including instructions for decorating the sanctuary with Easter flowers.

COVID-19 vaccine



The Moorestown Mall has available appointments for the COVID-19 vaccine for those who are currently eligible. As of right now, the earliest appointments are in March. Here is the link to schedule: https://mychart-openscheduling.et1017.epichosted.com/mychart/signupandschedule/embeddedschedule?dept=1000021227&vt=117773&fbclid=IwAR3XVu_WyM0WgKEJlujUMN1GyeelZ8fk2vwfEpBI6IjuUN8IjWJeUmoNTi0

If you try booking an appointment then it says not available, you just have to try again with a different date and time. I guess it's first come, first serve, and someone beat you to it. My dad only had to try twice and got a February appointment. He signed up to get alerts from Virtua (as well as the state website) but never got any notifications. The confirmation is then listed in MyChart with Virtua. (If you don't have a MyChart account with Virtua, you can sign up for one as you book an appointment or proceed as a guest.)



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Nothing's Plenty For Me...

He said: "Leave him with me and I will have a talk with him." Unsure and ashamed, they left him with the Rabbi. Mordecai faced the great Rabbi trembling! He beckoned the boy to come to him, and then simply and gently picked him up and held him silently to his heart. The next day Mordecai went to the synagogue to learn the Word of God, and when he had finished, went to the woods, swam in the lake and climbed the trees. Only this time as he walked in the woods, the word of God became one with the words of the woods, which became one with the words of Mordecai. And as he swam in the lake, the words of God became one with the words of the lake which became one with the words of Mordecai. And as he climbed the trees, the words of God became one with the words of the trees, which became one with the words of Mordecai. And Mordecai grew to become a great man. People who were seized with panic came to him and found peace. People who were without anybody came to him and found communion. People who had no exits came to him and found a way out. And when people came to him he said, "I first learned the words of God when the Great Rabbi held me silently against his heart."



To be still and held quietly against His heart. God's heart is always accessible, my availability is the problem. If I truly rest and listen, I can become one with the Word of God, and the Word of God will become one with me. Perhaps then I will hear His heart beating in the gift of a wife, of family, of friends. Maybe I will see his love for them when he asks me to change my way. Perhaps I will also hear his heart beating in the needs of others, in kind and encouraging words, in help given in genuine love, in the sharing of a burden, in the comfort of caring presence. In silence I may finally find the refuge I have heard of in sermons but have never really known. I may realize that when I am not alone with him, I am failing. As I sit quietly and see the road he has guided me on, as I consider the cost of Calvary and the state of my sin, as I reflect on the hymn "How Great Thou Art":

And when I think, that God, His son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on a cross, my burdens gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

I will allow the heartbeat, the awesome love of God, to invade my life.

In a way, Lent is about nothing. It begins with ashes. "Remember you are dust" (Genesis 3:19). It leads to the cross. "He made himself nothing" (Philippians 2:7). Through sin we are destined to dust, spiritually nothing. In grace, in love, Jesus emptied himself, became as nothing, for us. That "nothing" means everything. Life from ashes by love.

So be still. Rest. Listen. Abide in God's heartbeat of perfect love. Forty days or so down the road on Easter when you hear someone say, "He is risen!" you can joyfully reply, "In my heart, He is risen indeed!"

PS: The Burlington Food Pantry provided food to 92 Families this past Wednesday.





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THE AV-TEAM

Ladies & Gentlemen, Boys & Girls, Techno-geeks of all ages!

I am reaching out to interested individuals who would like to be part of the Audio-Visual team at Providence Presbyterian Church. Wait, what? You did not know we had an AV Team. That is because we are forming one now. Team members will learn:

- How to operate the Church's new camera system
- How to script the video production of services
- How to design, edit, and utilize Title overlays
- How to set up and live stream the service to the internet



Please note the change in date to Saturday, February 27th at 10 AM in the sanctuary.

Just drop me a line or let me know if you would like to participate.

Repeat From Last Week — Stay Safe During Winter Snow & Ice Conditions. Reach Out To Family, Neighbors, & Church Friends If You Are In Need Of Anything.

