



Nantucket
United Methodist Church
Sunday August 29, 2021
10:00am
Rev. Dr. Thomas M. Richard
Pastor
NantucketUMC.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost
August 29, 2021

Prelude **Anuraag Pendyal**

Welcome & Announcements **Zona Butler**

***Call to Worship:**

L: O give thanks to The Lord, for God is good

C: God's mercy endures forever

L: Come, let us worship together

C: In the sanctuary of God's making

***Opening Hymn**

God of The Ages No.698

Invocation (in unison)

Almighty God, to whom our hearts are open and our desires known, grant us the presence of your Spirit. By our worship this hour heal our spirits, illumine our minds, and inspire our actions, that our lives might be acceptable and righteous in your sight. Amen.

The Morning Scriptures

A Reading from Psalm 84 Verses 1-7

How lovely is your dwelling place, LORD Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out, for the living God. Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—
a place near your altar, LORD Almighty, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you. Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools. They go from strength to strength,- till each appears before God in Zion.

***Please rise for the Gospel reading**

We read from John's Gospel, chapter 6:60-68

On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching.

Who can accept it?" Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them." From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

Reader: This is the word of God for the people of God
Congregation: Thanks be to God

***A Hymn**

The Church of Christ in Every Age No. 589

The Sermon "No Turning Back"

Dr. Richard

The Morning Prayers

Prayer Requests

Pastoral Prayer

Memorial Dedication - Litany of Dedication

We pause at this important juncture of our life together, to recognize special gifts among a multitude of gifts in the life of this church. The most recent re-painting and new carpet of the pulpit area, and the new carpet in center aisle, has greatly enhanced our sanctuary. But these gifts do more than that. They represent our commitment to maintain the structures built and maintained by our forebears. They bear witness to the lives of those memorialized by these gifts, who even after they have passed to eternity, continue to bless our memory of them, and bless the present and future of this church. We use these gifts as an opportunity to re-dedicate our sanctuary and ourselves to God's work.

Leader: In recognition of the devotion of those who have served both this and the larger Christian Church in former years .

Congregation: In recognition of our donors to this project, we re-dedicate this work so lovingly provided to our church in memory of the grandparents of Marianne Stanton, Noerman and Zenna Giffin, and the parents of Ray and Laura Brusca, Anne and Frank Brusca, Susan Stine Reardon and Harry Gaffney.

Leader: We re-dedicate ourselves to the preaching, teaching, and serving that come from our being together in this beautiful place

C: May all who come here recognize the dear ones who continue to commit themselves to the upkeep and enhancement of this church.

L: May all we do not only honor the past, but provide inspiration for the future, that this church may grow in influence and outreach for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

C: We remember the dedication of past followers and encourage a new generation of disciples for Christ, here on Nantucket.

L: We dedicate these special gifts to you, O God.

Call To Offering

Offertory Solo

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessing flow
Praise him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Amen*

Prayer of Thanks

***Closing Hymn**

Be Thou My Vision No. 451

The Blessing

Zona Butler

Choral Benediction (In unison)

*God be with you til we meet again
By his counsels guide uphold you
With his sheep securely fold you
God be with you til we meet again.*

Leader: And the people all said

Congregation: Amen

Marianne Stanton

I am dedicating my contributions to the church to the memory of my grandparents, Norman and Zenna Giffin, lifelong members and leaders in the Nantucket United Methodist Church. Norman Giffin was a church leader who organized the excavation of the basement of the church and construction of Fellowship Hall, named as such so it could be used for winter worship as well as ham and bean suppers, rummage sales and other community events. In 2010, Rev. Bill Coleman changed the name of the space to Wesley Hall. As a little girl, remember my grandfather passing the collection plate every Sunday. My grandmother Zenna Giffin played the organ in the church for over 50 years, the Appleton organ in the main sanctuary, and a smaller organ we had in Wesley Hall. She was an excellent pianist too. She knew all the favorite hymns by heart.

She ran the ham and bean suppers the church used to have, bake sales and the rummage sales, all designed to bring funds into the church. When I was four and my brother two, my mother became very ill with TB so we lived with my grandparents for a year while my mother was away. That was my first introduction to the Methodist Church. My grandparents brought us to Sunday School every week and to all the church events.

They were warm and loving people, and their life was faith based around the work of the church. I think of them every day.

Laura & Ray Brusca

We donated funds for the altar project to honor our parents and Laura's grandmother. All are deceased except Laura's mother Susan Reardon.

Harry Gaffney – Laura's father passed away in 2006 at age 64. A career as a heavy equipment salesman, Harry always became everyone's best friend as soon as they met him. He only wore white hats because that's what good guys wear.

Susan Reardon – Laura's Mom is a 1975 graduate of Towson University and a retired FBI agent who currently resides in The Villages, FL. It was Sue, along with her grandmother Jane, that brought Laura to the Methodist Church.

Jane Stine – Laura’s maternal grandmother, affectionately known as Grandmommy, passed away in 2016 at the age of 93. Originally from Roanoke, VA, Jane was a career bank teller in Baltimore. Jane, along with Sue, was very involved with their local Methodist church. The last 35 years of her life she resided in Riverview FL. An avid bowler right up to her passing, Jane also enjoyed cruises and Las Vegas trips.

Frank Brusca – Ray’s father passed away in 2014 at the age of 91. A WW2 Army Air Corps veteran and a graduate of Loyola University – Maryland in 1950, Frank was one of the first computer programmers nationally, starting in the mid-1950s when computers were in their infancy. Together with his wife Anne and when they were younger their 5 children, they were constantly traveling across the US and the world. Frank was also an amateur singer and actor, having appeared in countless community theater musicals as well as a long line of Gilbert & Sullivan productions. In retirement, he also started doing watercolor painting and cooking.

Anne Brusca – Ray’s mother passed away in December 2020 at the age of 86. Anne obtained both her undergraduate and masters degree in social work from the University of Maryland campuses, starting college after the youngest of her children was old enough for her to attend classes. Her entire career as an LCSW was spent at one of the state hospitals in Maryland. Anne thrived on organizing everything her family did, from vacations, getting all 5 children into and graduated from college, to cooking large meals for family and friends.

A Warm Welcome

This is a special day, one in which it is natural for us to look back and remember, and look forward and anticipate. We are delighted that you have joined us!

Our Reader

Zona Butler has served this church for over 30 years and held various leadership roles. At present, she is the chairperson of the Administrative Council.

Refreshments on the Front Lawn

Our thanks to Susan Renzulli for hosting a refreshment time on the front porch this morning. Stay for a few moments and join us.

Are You A Visitor?

Please make yourself known to us. There are yellow visitor information cards in your pew. Feel free to fill it in and drop it in the offering plate.

For Your Safety...

Everyone regardless of vaccination status must wear a mask at all times when inside the church building. We are using our hymnals. We have hand sanitizer available, if you wish to use it.

Wednesday Zoom

During the remaining weeks of Summer our Wednesday zoom gatherings will change. We will have a round table discussion of news items that raise questions of their relationship (or not) to the Gospel. Bring a news item that you believe deserves to be discussed using the prism of the Gospel.

Prayer Requests

Each week we include in your bulletin a slip upon which you may request prayers. Simply fill it out and place it on the pulpit, and it will be included in the morning prayers.

Flowers From Your Garden

Do you want to honor or remember someone? Providing flowers for a worship service is a wonderful way to do so. Speak to Kathie Batchelder or call the church office and let us help you find a date.

Altar Flowers

Marianne Stanton has donated today's flowers in honor of her grandparents, Noerman and Zenna Giffin .

What Does My Financial Contribution to NUMC Do?

It honors those who built this house, by keeping it in good repair for all who come to its doors to find peace, comfort and inspiration. Our contributions serve a world of needs, through the United Methodist Church world wide....and so much more. Our Recommended Option is to contribute online by going to the web site Tithe.Ly or by using the Tythe.Ly APP on your smart phone. You can also contribute during the weekly collection or by using the envelope and offering plate as you leave. You may also mail a check to NUMC Box 264 02554. Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity!

From My Heart To Yours...

Dear Friends,

There is a proverb out of Kenya which goes, "When you pray always remember to move your feet." The book of James is probably the book of the Bible which embodies this idea. The Reformer Martin Luther was not keen on why the book of James was even in the canon of the Bible. He felt it detracted from St. Paul's assertion in his letter to the Christians in Galatia. "A person is justified, not by the works of the law, but through faith in Jesus Christ." For me, this is not one of those either/or issues, but a both/and one. Methodists, as all Protestant traditions, are clearly indebted to Luther for his reformational theology. But, I suggest Luther has missed the nuance of James' theology. He has a gift for encouraging people to "move their feet." After all, we can all agree that James' exhortation, "be doers of the Word and not just hearers," is important, can't we? The health of this church has been and still is, dependent upon those who not only hear the Gospel but set about doing whatever they could/can to spread its influence. Today is one of those days we gladly re-commit ourselves to hearing God's word AND doing the work which sustains our congregation's life.

We add our thanks to those who are contributing to our movement forward. No turning back.

Tom