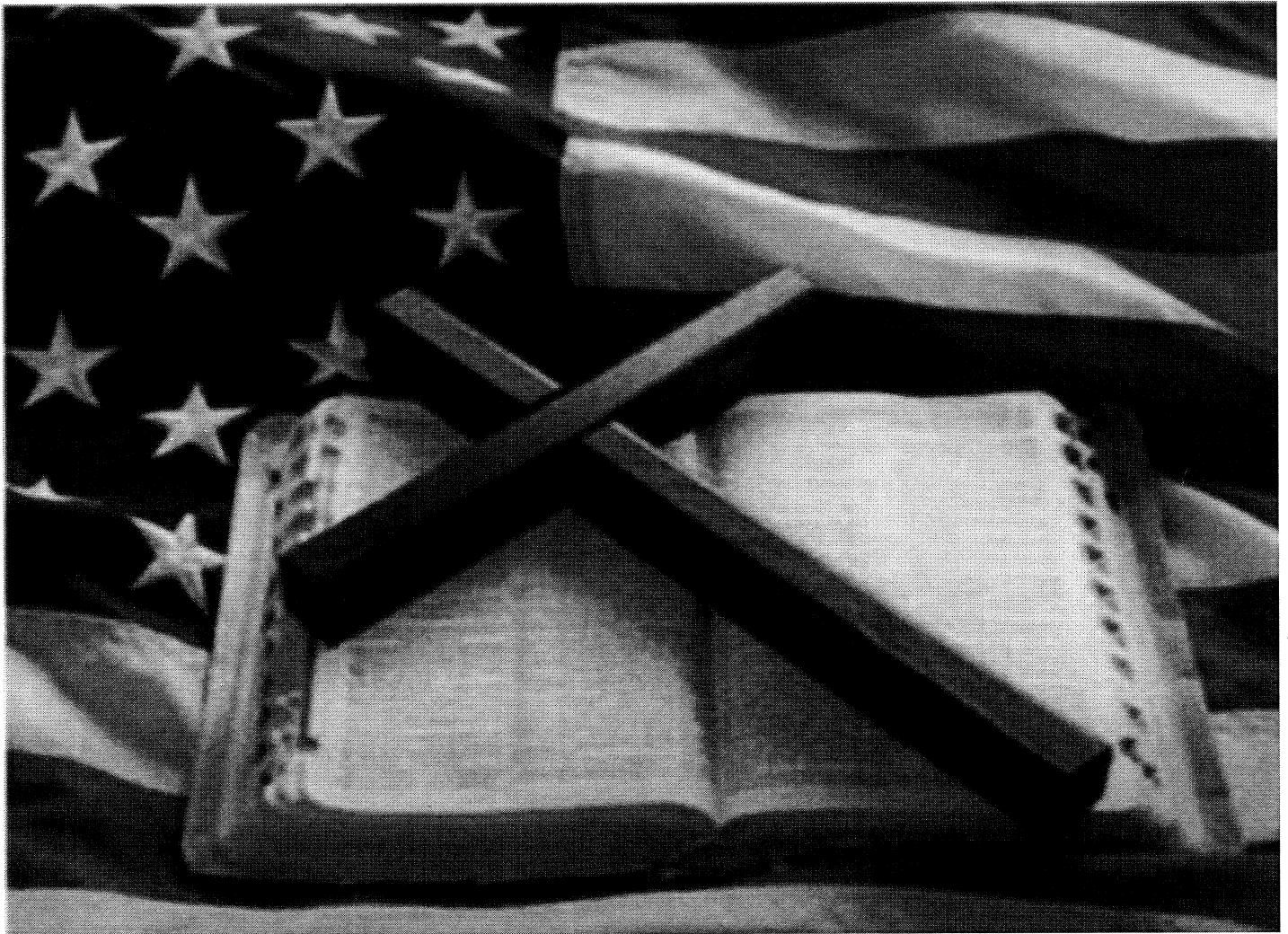


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 4, 2021



700 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214

814-226-8145

churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org

www.clarionfirstpresby.org



We come together to worship, grow, and serve as disciples of Christ.

**WE WELCOME ALL WHO COME TO WORSHIP!
IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN VACCINATED, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR WEARING A MASK TO PROTECT
THE CHILDREN AND THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO BE VACCINATED.**

We Gather in God's Name

(Tune your car radio to 88.7 FM)

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Elaine Matticks

We silently shift our focus to God and prepare to worship.

Prelude

Theme and Variations on "America"

Samuel Sebastian Wesley
arr. by H. Robert James

Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

Call to Worship

Why do we come to worship?

We come seeking a blessing from our Lord.

What is this blessing that we seek?

**We seek an encounter with our God, who washes us in mercy,
calls us to service, and fills us with love.**

Let us worship God together.

✦ When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

✦ Hymn No. 337

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

Text: Smith, 1831

Music: *Harmonia Angelicana*, c. 1744

Call to Confession

Threats to life pierce us

and cause us to doubt God's love.

But God shows God's love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.

Let us confess our sins and receive new life.

Prayer of Confession

You are love, O God, and you have loved us from the beginning. Forgive us when we do not share your love with the world: when we choose selfishness over compassion; what feels comfortable rather than what is right; when we strive for success instead of faithfulness; when we value independence over community. Forgive us, O God, of the ways we fall short. Free us to try again, and let your love lead the way. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear and believe this good news: Jesus, the Christ, son of Mary, Son of the Most High God, was broken and poured out for our salvation.

In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI
Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the
Holy Ghost, as it was in
the beginning is now and
ever shall be, world
without end. Amen,
Amen

✦ Gloria Patri

We Share God's Word

Time with the Children

Elaine Matticks

Scripture Reading

Galatians 5:1, 13-18

(NRSV)

¹ For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. ¹⁶ Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law.

Prayer for Illumination

Savior God, you gave Zion as a stronghold for David. By the power of the Holy Spirit, speak to us through Jesus Christ, your living Word, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Message

“True Freedom”

Rev. Paul W. Abell, Jr.

Prayer for Courage

✦ **Hymn No. 688**

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

Text: Croly, 1867
Music: Atkinson, 1870

We Give Thanks to God

✦ **Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. **Amen.**

Call for the Offering

Offertory

God Bless America
(Sung by the Congregation)

Irving Berlin

God bless America, land that I love.
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above.
From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home!
God bless America, my home sweet home!

✦ **Doxology**

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers for the People and The Lord’s Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✦ **Hymn No. 338**

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

Text: Bates, 1893, alt.
Music: Ward, 1882

✦ **Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

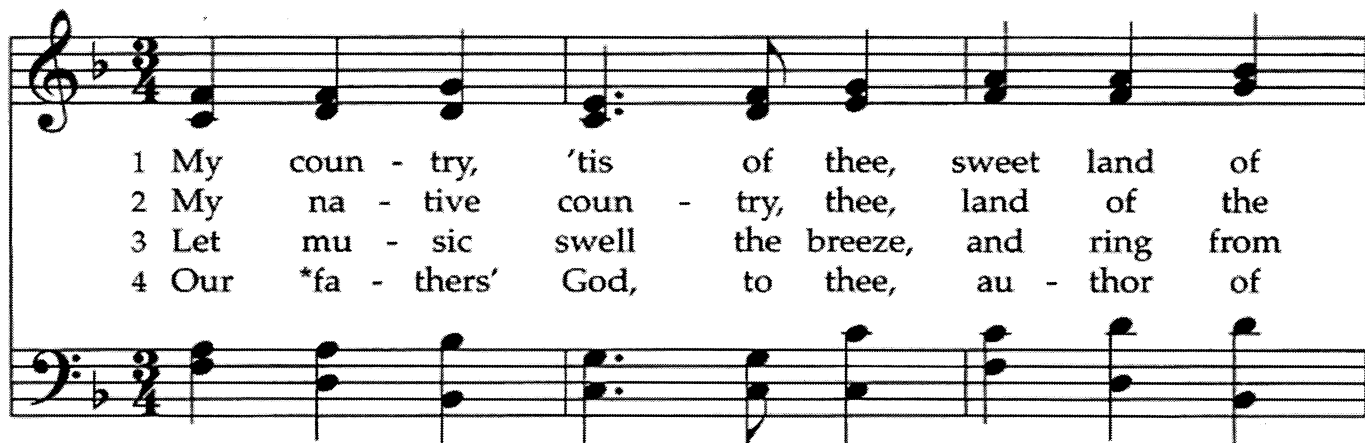
“God of the Nations”

arr. Mathew McConnell

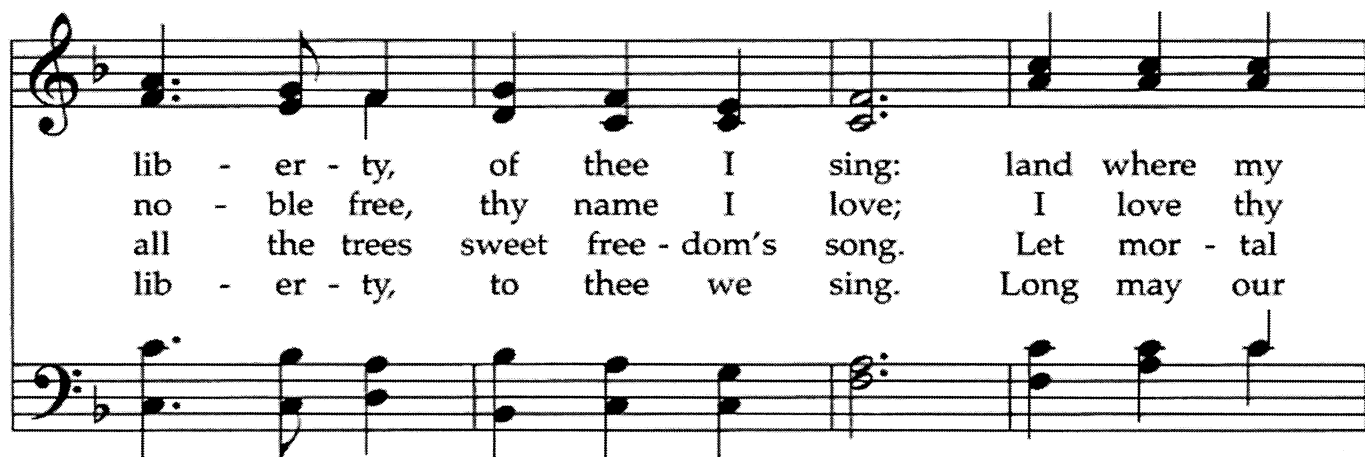
DOXOLOGY
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. **Amen.**

My Country, 'Tis of Thee



1 My coun - try, 'tis of thee, sweet land of
 2 My na - tive coun - try, thee, land of the
 3 Let mu - sic swell the breeze, and ring from
 4 Our *fa - thers' God, to thee, au - thor of



lib - er - ty, of thee I sing: land where my
 no - ble free, thy name I love; I love thy
 all the trees sweet free - dom's song. Let mor - tal
 lib - er - ty, to thee we sing. Long may our

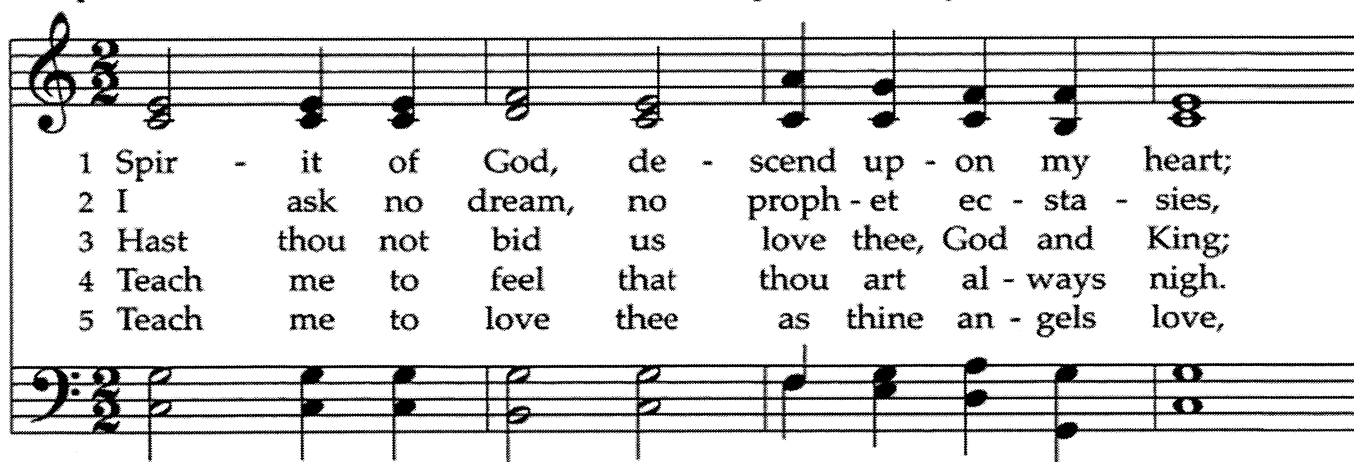


*fa - thers died, land of the pil - grims' pride,
 rocks and rills, thy woods and tem - pled hills;
 tongues a - wake; let all that breathe par - take;
 land be bright with free - dom's ho - ly light;

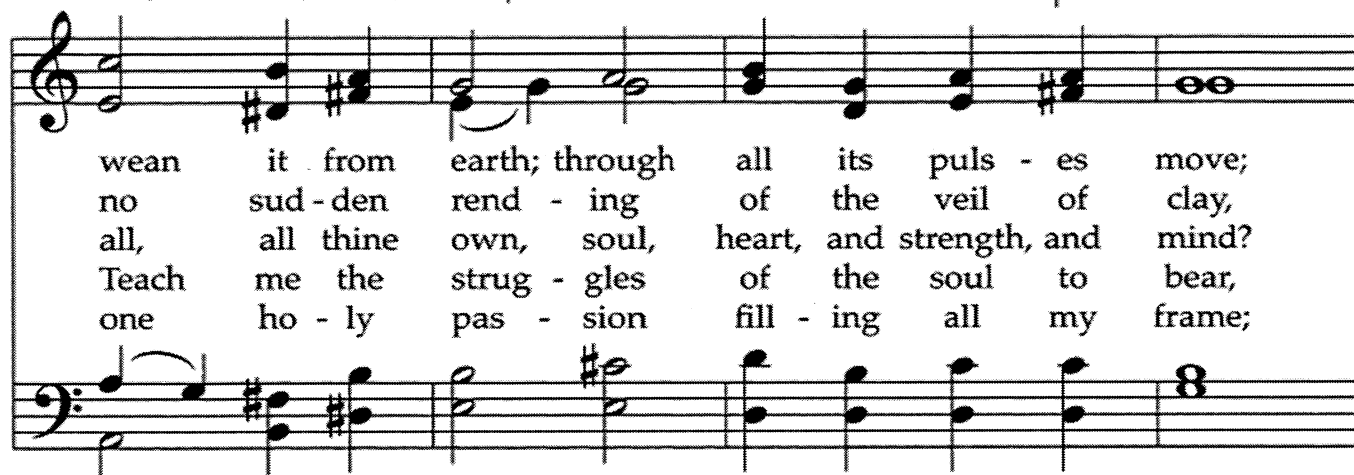


from ev - ery moun - tain - side let free - dom ring.
 my heart with rap - ture thrills like that a - bove.
 let rocks their si - lence break, the sound pro - long.
 pro - tect us by thy might, great God, our King.

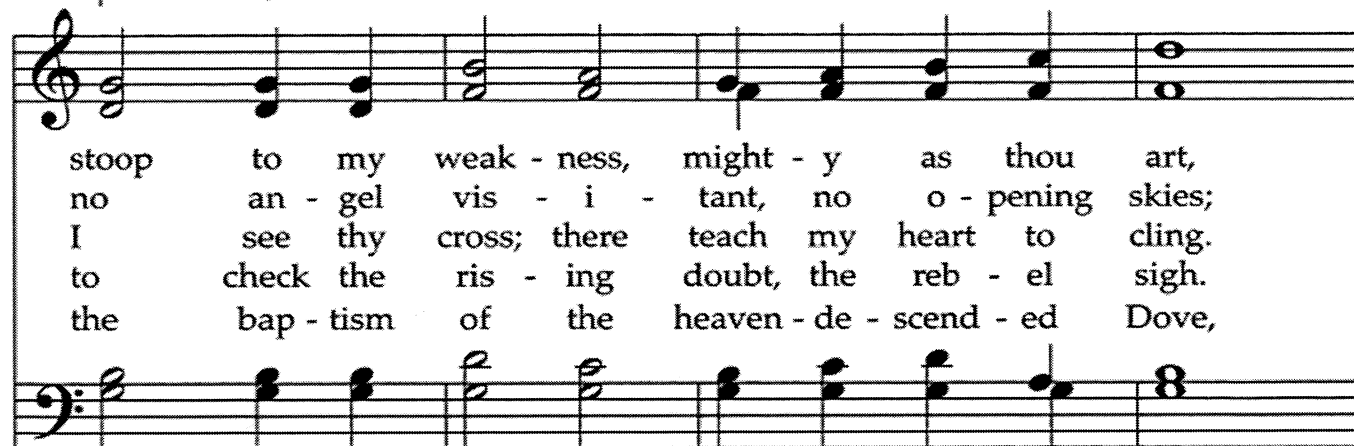
Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart 688



1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King;
 4 Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh.
 5 Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,



wean it from earth; through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all thine own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

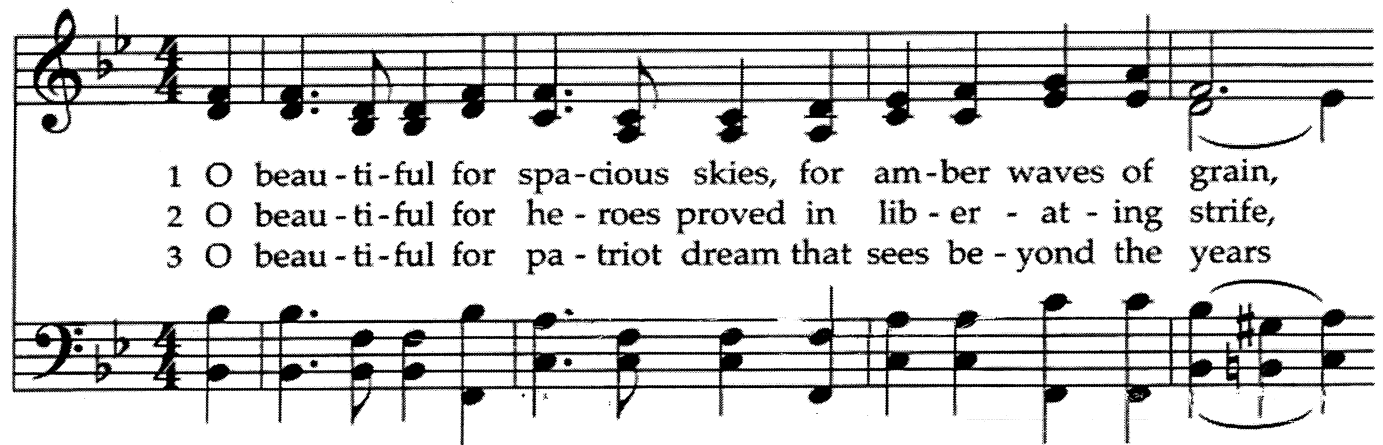


stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;
 I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 to check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh.
 the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,



and make me love thee as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek thee, and O let me find!
 Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

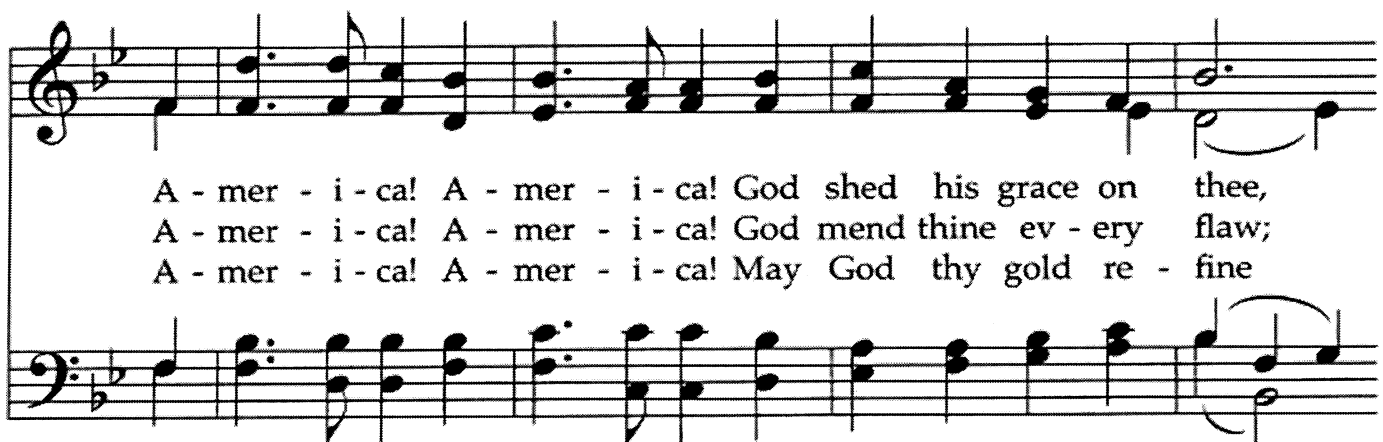
O Beautiful for Spacious Skies 338



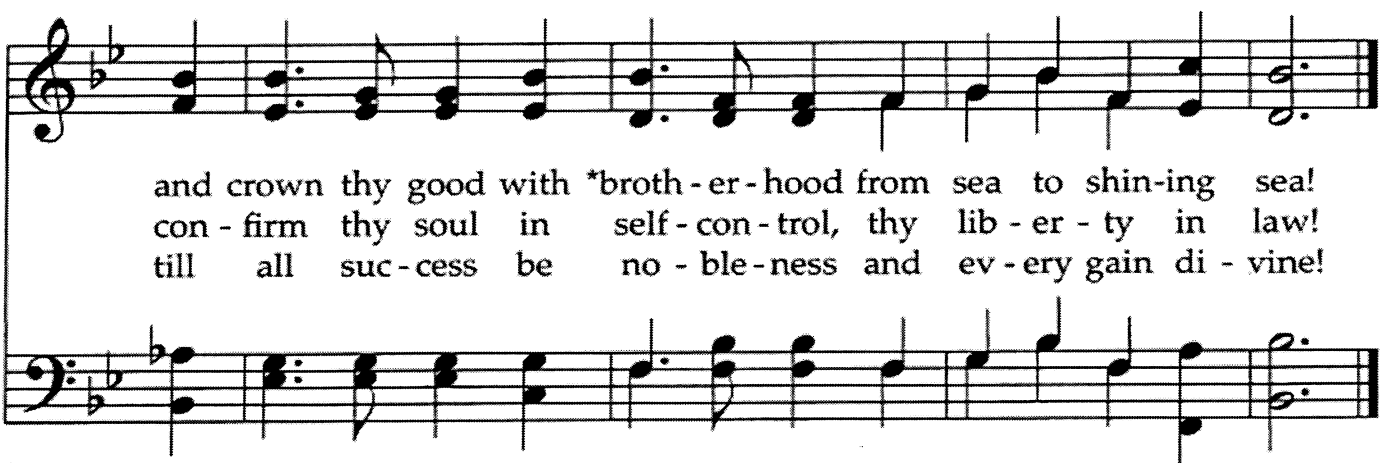
1 O beau-ti-ful for spa-cious skies, for am-ber waves of grain,
2 O beau-ti-ful for he-roes proved in lib-er-at-ing strife,
3 O beau-ti-ful for pa-triot dream that sees be-yond the years



for pur-ple moun-tain maj-es-ties a-bove the fruit-ed plain!
who more than self their coun-try loved, and mer-cy more than life!
thine al-a-bas-ter cit-ies gleam, un-dimmed by hu-man tears!



A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God shed his grace on thee,
A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God mend thine ev-ery flaw;
A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! May God thy gold re-fine



and crown thy good with *broth-er-hood from sea to shin-ing sea!
con-firm thy soul in self-con-trol, thy lib-er-ty in law!
till all suc-cess be no-ble-ness and ev-ery gain di-vine!

**Monday, July 5 Church Building and Office Closed
in observance of Independence Day**

Wednesday, July 7

8:00 p.m. AA Meeting, Social Hall

Sunday, July 11

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Summer Celebration—Refreshments in the Parking
Lot, hosted by the Deacons

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME ALL WHO COME TO WORSHIP! IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN VACCINATED, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR WEARING A MASK TO PROTECT THE CHILDREN AND THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO BE VACCINATED.

No regular ministry team meetings will occur during the month of July. CE will only have meetings scheduled at the convenience of those who have volunteered for VBS.

The 2021 Per Capita Apportionment for the Clarion First Presbyterian Church is \$33.65 per individual active member. This funds our work as a connectional church at the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly levels. An envelope has been included in the 2021 envelope packets for the annual cost for each church member. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and write "Per Capita" in the memo line.

The Deacons will be hosting a **Summer Celebration** on Sunday, July 11th, immediately after church. You may recall this informal gathering was a tradition of our church in years past. Please plan to stop by for some light refreshments and conversation on your way out to the parking lot. We hope to see you there!

The **Sharing Cupboard** item for July is a 20 ounce bottle of dish soap. As the Deacons continue to use the Sharing Cupboard ministry to complement the Food Bag Distribution, this will need to be in the church or dropped in Ministry Central by Sunday, July 11th. The next Food Bag Distribution is Thursday, July 15th.

Our next Food Bag Distribution is Thursday, July 15, 2:00-4:00 p.m. or all bags are gone. Ongoing thanks to all who contribute their time and/or money to make this happen! It is amazing what we can do for our community together!

Vacation Bible School preparations are underway. The theme verse: **Taste and See! The Lord is Good!** VBS will be held in person on **August 3, 4 and 5 from 6:30 p.m. until 8:15 p.m.** Registration will be held on August 3, 2021 beginning at 6:15 p.m. We will discover how we experience God and our faith through our five senses at "Our Daily Bread Café". A full menu of activities is being planned. If you would like to help with VBS, your assistance would be appreciated. Preregistration is appreciated but not required. If you would like to volunteer to help or to register your child, please call the church at 814-226-8145.

Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Jerry Champion, who passed away Sunday, June 27th. He is Bill Champion's brother. Please keep the family in your prayers.

MEMBER CARE

Please pray for:

- *Members with known health concerns:* Ruth Showers, Fred Port, Jim Young, Dorothy Jean Foreman, Herb & Dee Thrush, Mary McCamant, Pat McConnell, and Mary Swanger.
- *Our family and friends in need of prayer:* Shirley McKinley's daughter, Charlotte Hartman and nephew, Kenneth Daughtery Jr.; John McKinley's great-nephew, David Mahle; Marianne Reynolds' mother, Alice Davis; former treasurer, Jennifer Hurrelbrink; Carolyn McFarland's brother and his wife, Rick and Janelle Moore; Kristen Maze's uncle, Charles Gamble; Ellen DiBernardo's friend, Barbara Frampton; Pastor Paul's daughter, Helen Abell; Bill and Bonnie Champion's sister-in-law, Norma Stahlman Champion; and Linda Deitz, sister to Jeff Deitz.
- *And all of those serving in the US Military* including members and friends of our own faith family.

Caring Caller member of the week: Please remember Dorothy Jean Foreman, Clarion Healthcare & Rehab, Rm. 207, 999 Heidrick Street, Clarion, PA 16214

WELCOME VISITORS

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church. We are glad to provide hybrid and virtual worship services for this Sunday. Services are currently livestreamed on our Facebook page (First Presbyterian Church of Clarion) in real time. Then archived to our website and Facebook page.

At First Presbyterian Church our mission is to worship, grow, and serve as followers of Jesus. From our youngest to our oldest, we seek to worship God in our actions, grow in God's love, and serve God's people in our community and around the world. We hope that you will come join us so we may personally extend a warm welcome. If you have any questions or particular needs, please feel free to contact Pastor Paul Abell at the church office at 226-8145 between 9 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. You may also email him at pastorpaul@clarionpresyb.org.

For more information visit our website at www.clarionfirstpresby.org.

Find us on Facebook! (First Presbyterian Church of Clarion)

Radio Broadcast-WWCH 1300AM and 94.1 FM every third Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

Video recordings of past sermons may be viewed by clicking the "Worship" link on our home page at www.clarionfirstpresby.org or a phone app is available at sermon.net (look for First Presbyterian Church—Clarion.) You can also choose to listen to an audio version. Simply pick the option that works best for you. Videos of Sunday worship are also posted on our Facebook page (see above).

CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Interim Pastor: Rev. Paul W. Abell, Jr.
Organist: Jean Mitrosky
Director of Music: Bonnie Champion
Treasurer: Brenda Nesbitt
Secretary: Debra Owens
Sexton: Mike Hetrick
Sound Engineer: Josh Deitz
Video Engineer: Dan Willy

Ruling Elders:

<u>Class of 2021:</u>	<u>Class of 2022:</u>	<u>Class of 2023:</u>
Bobbie Cumo	Joe Burns	John Joy
Jeff Kapp	Robin Cable	Bert Louder
Elaine Matticks	Michelle Deitz	Jim McConnell
Marissa Widmer	Cindy Stants	

Deacons:

<u>Class of 2021:</u>	<u>Class of 2022:</u>	<u>Class of 2023:</u>
Doug Bills	Tamalyn Goble	Suellen Gourley
Pam Reid	Mike Hetrick	Cindy Kapp
Dana Solida	Carolyn McFarland	Norma Kooman
Amy Widmer	Debra Owens	

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor:	Rev. Paul W. Abell, Jr.
Lector:	Elaine Matticks
Time with Children:	Elaine Matticks
Director of Music:	Bonnie Champion
Organist:	Jean Mitrosky
Sound Engineer:	Josh Deitz/Jeff Kapp
Video Engineer:	Dan Willy
Ushers in Charge:	Cindy Kapp and Pam Reid

Flowers today are in honor of the Champion Family, by Pauline Henry.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 4 Independence Day
 10:00 a.m. Worship

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

6/28/2021

Envelope Contributions	\$2,765.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	<u>\$65.00</u>
Total Contributions	\$2,830.00
Food Bag Donations	<u>\$865.00</u>
Total Deposit	\$3,695.00

NOTES

Feel free to use this space to take notes on the sermon, the service or for any personal reminders that may help you in your walk with God this week