

Order of Worship for Sunday, August 30, 2020
PENTECOST 13A

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A handwritten message in black ink that says "Happy Birthday!" with a large exclamation point.A handwritten message in black ink that says "Happy Anniversary" in a cursive script.

August 30 – Janet Marventano

MISSION OPPORTUNITY

School Supplies Needed for Refugee Children – Mary's Place

This giving opportunity is currently suspended until children are able to attend school.

Walk to End Alzheimers – Saturday, October 10

Ellen Best will be the JCPC team captain for the Walk to End Alzheimers again this year. Our team name is John Calvin Presbyterian Church for anyone who would like to register and/or donate to this worthy cause. The walk will be Sat. Oct. 10th in our own neighborhoods however we want to set it up this year. That allows for small groups instead of a large gathering. Plan at this time is that anyone who would like to walk can meet at the church, 10:00 AM and we will walk through the surrounding neighborhood for as short or long as people would like. Once we know who is walking, we can determine the course, especially if the weather makes a difference. It was quite rainy last year!

PRAYER JOYS & CONCERNS

Please feel free to email prayer joys and concerns to Rev. Marie at myhansel@yahoo.com and they will be shared with the congregation as a whole so we may continue to support one another. If you wish to share a prayer concern only with Rev. Marie that request will be honored.

FELLOWSHIP & DEVOTION WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 P.M.

The link to access the “meeting” and password will be sent in a separate email.

PRESENTING OUR LIVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

Freely we have received, freely let us give. With joyous and generous hearts, let us offer to God a portion of what God has entrusted to us.

Offering Prayer of Dedication: We recognize your presence, Loving God, even when we feel adrift and alone. Receive our giving as a testimony to your grace. Bless it toward the strengthening of your people and the healing of your planet, that someday we might truly live in the deep communion you designed and desire. Amen.

Please mail your offering to the address below each week to support the ministry of the church.

*John Calvin Presbyterian Church
Attn: Financial Secretary
P.O. Box 103, Henrietta, NY 14467*

PRELUDE Bach: Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major, Prelude – Yo-Yo Ma

<https://vimeo.com/311633954>

“Culture – the way we express ourselves and understand each other
– can bind us together as one world.”

YO-YO MA

CALL TO WORSHIP ⁶

Hidden in the quiet of our morning there is a blessing for us today.

Sheltered amidst the reeds of a busy world

there is new life awaiting our care and attention.

Floating above the currents of trial and tribulation, a peaceful possibility approaches.

Swaddled in the love and compassion of God’s grace, a new beginning is preserved.

People of God, the embracing and affirming arms of God are reaching toward us with joy.

For we are God’s children, holy and beloved.

Come, let us welcome God’s embrace as we begin a new journey.

Let us worship with the confidence of God’s abiding presence and rescuing love.

OPENING PRAYER ⁶

Mothering God, midwife of all our experiences and dreams, we thank you for the ways you have brought us into new life over and over again. We praise you for your protection of us when the threats of life ensue. We honor you for the cunning and ingenuity with which you have crafted our opportunities to grow and thrive. In humble devotion, we remember your rescuing intervention when the way has been difficult, and the light has grown dim.

Gathered as your people, wonderful and diverse, we join as one body in worship—remembering your saving Spirit and embodying your creative purpose. Make yourself known to us as we worship, we pray. Amen.

HYMN “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

<https://vimeo.com/437515344>

Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there.

Where my joyful soul in duty Waits for God who answers prayer;

O how blessed is this place, Filled with solace, light and grace.

Here Thy praise is gladly chanted, Here Thy seed is duly sown;

Let my soul, where it is planted, Bring forth precious sheaves alone,

So that all I hear may be Fruitful unto life in me.

Thou my faith increase and quicken, Let me keep Thy gift divine;

Howsoe’er temptations thicken, May Thy Word still o’er me shine

As my guiding star through life, As my comfort in all strife.

Speak, O Lord, and I will hear Thee, Let Thy will be done indeed;

May I undisturbed draw Thee, While Thou dost Thy people feed.

Here of life the fountain flows, Here is balm for all our woes.

CALL TO CONFESSION ⁴

Siblings in Christ, we have not always walked with integrity or trusted the Lord without wavering. Our love of God and neighbor has lacked zeal and at times we have done the very things we hate. We need God's grace, God's mercy and God's transforming power. Confident in God's promise to be with us always, we boldly confess our sin and seek to be made new in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION ⁴

Lord, you instruct us to hate what is evil and to hold fast to that which is good. You tell us to love genuinely, ardently, fully. You teach us to weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice, and yet we neglect those who suffer and resent the successes of others. We fail to honor one another and fall easily into judgment, anger and revenge.

In your abundant mercy, break our hearts of stone and put a new and right spirit within us. Grant us the eyes to see our own sin and the strength of character to be gentle with others. Do not let our Christian witness be tarnished by our inability to admit our mistakes, make amends and alter our ways. Forgive us, Lord, and set us free to follow you more closely, even to the cross.

Silence is kept.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We seek the Lord's presence, knowing that those who seek will find. We believe that Jesus came to rescue sinners. We rejoice in the truth that we are forgiven and made new, freed to live a new life in Christ.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

GRATEFUL RESPONSE "Gloria Patri"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUBxpypSblw>

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.

PASSING THE PEACE

Jesus came to bring peace among us.

Let us sow the seeds for peace in our world by sharing the peace of Christ with one another, stranger and friend alike.

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Perhaps you could take some time today to send an email, make a phone call, send a card to someone who would appreciate knowing that they are not alone.

ANTHEM "I Will Get There" Disney song from The Prince of Egypt - sung by Boyz II Men

<https://vimeo.com/307318896>

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION ⁴

I AM, you call out to us by name, wanting to speak to us, to instruct and send us. Help us to notice your near presence, so that we will stop to listen for your voice. In your goodness, grant us once again a holy encounter that transforms us and, in turn, relieves the suffering of your people. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:8-2:10

⁸Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." ¹¹Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, ¹⁴and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶"When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." ¹⁷But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" ¹⁹The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." ²⁰So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²²Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Matthew 16:21-28

²¹From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹²He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." ¹³But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

SERMON

"The Unfolding Promise of God"

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/2YtUE-r66npOU6vurx3dB_JmMdu6aaa80Skdr_pZmjQYgV8gYAHrS-Hq6QBHpTU

Passcode: hLPq29Y%

- How might God be calling us to be agents of change?
- Who are the people and situations in your life in which hope has been delivered by people or in unexpected ways, and seemingly without power?
- There is always the power to subvert – to use creativity and ingenuity to go a different way. Where and in what ways might subversion be the way forward in our time?

HYMN “Seek Ye First”

<https://vimeo.com/426747825>

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God And His righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from “A Brief Statement of Faith” of the Presbyterian Church USA)*

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ⁷

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Prayers of rejoicing that Ellen and Steve Best are looking forward to becoming grandparents in March. Laura and Evan are expecting a baby due on March 3. All first trimester screening has been completed and all is well. Thanks be to God!

Prayers for Carolyn Wilson who remains in Strong as she is having a difficult recovery. Prayers for daughter Jennifer Wilson who lives with Carolyn. Also prayers for daughter Carolee.

For the session of JCPC as plans are underway to resume in person worship beginning Sunday, September 6.

For Nancy Milizia's Aunt Marty who has lung cancer and is now in hospice care at home.

Prayer of joy and thanksgiving for Carl Dellefave's successful surgery and good news that no further cancer was found. Prayers for continued healing.

For Judy Finch who is now in hospice care at St. John's and who is experiencing some improvement in her health.

Holy One, as we center ourselves in prayer, remind us that you are as close to us as our very breath, even in these times when you may feel so far away to so many of us; in these times when many of us find it so hard to breathe. You are there with us.

So we begin this portion of our time of prayer with three deep breaths. As we breathe in, may we breathe in your peace. As we breathe out, may we breathe out your love.

We lift up prayers of healing for the United States, after months of civil unrest over police brutality and attacks on innocent black lives. We pray especially for Jacob Blake, a black man, who was shot multiple times by police in Wisconsin, and for his children, who witnessed the traumatic assault on their father's life. We pray, also, for the lives of the protestors who were killed and injured by a white teen with an assault weapon during related protests in Kenosha, Wisconsin. God of Justice, help each of us do our part as we seek to redeem the soul of the United States as it faces the sin of racism.

We continue to pray for the Middle East, where turmoil seems ceaseless. We especially pray for those affected by the airstrikes in the southern Gaza Strip, after 11 straight days of bombing. Our hearts are still with Beirut, Lebanon, where explosion survivors are trying to pick up the pieces and rebuild their lives. God of Reconciliation, guide us into new ways of hope and peace.

During this seemingly never-ending global Coronavirus pandemic, we lift prayers for all who are affected, and pray for children who are starting a new school year, for the many stresses on families, and for wisdom for our leaders as they try to determine a way forward. We pray specifically for Spain, as the surge in cases has made it the new epicenter of the virus, and for Brazil, where new cases and deaths continue to rise. God of Grace, help each of us to do our part as we continually seek to slow the spread.

We pray for the Earth, as we face ramifications of climate change and natural disasters in so many parts of the world. We see over one million acres of California, USA, burning with wildfires; we see flash floods killing dozens in Charikar, Afghanistan as they were sleeping. We pray for those in the path of Hurricane Laura, as it has made landfall at the border of Texas and Louisiana, USA, where over 500,000 people evacuated, the storm bringing with it punishing winds and torrential rains. And all of these evacuations in each of these cases are more challenging due to the coronavirus.

Breathing in smoke from wildfires, or from explosions, makes it hard to breathe.

Seeing the lives of innocent people cut short due to prejudice makes it hard to breathe.

Experiencing the fear and loss of a global pandemic is making it hard to breathe.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit that, even now, with tensions high everywhere we turn, we may breathe in Your peace, and breathe out Your love. Help us to breathe, so that we may do the work of healing that is so desperately needed, and that we may find some joy along the way.

SPECIAL MUSIC “On Our Knees” written and sung by Rev. Colin Pritchard

A FACEBOOK SIGN-ON BOX WILL POP UP, click on NOT NOW that is at the bottom of the box, then press PLAY.

<https://www.facebook.com/colin.pritchard.54/videos/10220142186418286>

Hear us now as we pray the prayer Jesus taught his disciples saying,

THE LORD’S PRAYER (sins)

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

***HYMN** “God Be With You Till We Meet Again”

https://video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?fr=yhs-iry-fullyhosted_003&hsimp=yhs-fullyhosted_003&hspart=iry&p=god+be+with+you+till+we+meet+again+lyrics#action=view&id=5&vid=5e1040b5cb125da765607b05952efbfd

God be with you till we meet again, by his counsels guide, uphold you,
With his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again, ‘neath his wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; if life’s perils should confound you,
God will put his arms around you; God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again, keep love’s banner floating o’er you,
Smite death’s threatening wave before you; God be with you till we meet again.

CHARGE

Romans 12:9-21

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

BENEDICTION

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, The love of God And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you now and abide with you always. Amen.

POSTLUDE “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” – J. S. Bach

<https://vimeo.com/409614547>

MORNING PRAYER ³

God of love, today help us to live peaceably with all.

Help us live in genuine love: to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to love you, O God, with our whole heart, mind, and strength. In Jesus' loving name. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER ³

Holy God, because you have been with us this day, we have stood on holy ground. Thank you.

We know that you will remain with us through the night. Thank you.

We know that you will be with us again tomorrow. Thank you.

In Jesus' holy name we pray. Amen.

¹*Playing Hopscotch in Heaven Lectionary Liturgies for RCL Year A, Thom M. Shuman, Bearers of Hope and Wonder, 2013*

²*Book of Common Worship for the Presbyterian Church USA, Westminster/John Knox Press, Louisville, KY, 1993*

³*Feasting on the Word Worship Companion-Liturgies for Year A – Volume 2, edited by Kimberly Bracken Long; Westminster John Knox Press*

⁴*Presbyterian Outlook, liturgy written by Jill Duffield*

⁵<https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2020> *Thom Shuman*

⁶*Seasons of the Spirit, Wood Lake Publishing Inc., 2019*

⁷*World News This Week in Prayer, a ministry of Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, Lodi, CA 95242*