



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 29, 2020

MEDITATION

A Prayer for the Beginning of Advent

Almighty God, as we begin this season of Advent,
remind us again that in the midst of our darkness
you are bringing us peace, to calm our anxious spirits and hectic lives.

Turn our hearts again toward you.

Make us ready to receive your Son our Savior.

Slow our pace, and give us the blessing of feeling your peace in our spirits.

For we ask this in Jesus' precious Name. AMEN.

PRELUDE

Two Preludes on *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Johannes Brahms

(1833-1897)

John G. Barr

(b. 1938)

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Muddassar Iqbal, liturgist

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Muddassar Iqbal, liturgist

This is the season of holy waiting.

We wait for the One who will tear open the heavens and come down to save us.

We watch for the day when God's name will be made known among the nations.

We wait in the shadows for the Light of the World to appear.

Come let us walk in the light of God!

Let us worship the God who comes to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Isaiah 2:4

The prophet Isaiah said, “He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Today, we light the first candle on our Advent wreath for peace.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of justice and peace,
from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness,
that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder
before your marvelous deeds.
Raise our heads in expectation,
that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord
and stand without blame before your Son, Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

*Hymn singing is vital to our community life. Although distanced from one another, we can be united through song.
Join in singing the hymns with the recorded voices of our choir and organ.*

HYMN OF PRAISE

The Days Are Surely Coming

1 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says God to all the earth,
2 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says Christ, the prom - ised one,
3 The days are sure - ly com - ing when we will know at last

when you will see my prom - ise: sal - va - tion come to birth.
when you will read my warn - ing in moon and stars and sun.
the full - ness of God's pres - ence, God's prom - ise, come to pass.

My righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land
Though earth and heav - en trem - ble, stand up and do not fear,
Then righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land

and you will be de - liv - ered by my al - might - y hand.
for I am your re - deem - er, and I am draw - ing near.
and we will be de - liv - ered by God's al - might - y hand.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Gracious God, you paint a picture of a better world--a world of peace and joy, of equality and grace. But we turn our heads and close our eyes, afraid that you might want us to help. You ask us to be brave, and we are complacent. You ask us to speak out, but instead we stay quiet. You ask us to listen, and we assume we are the experts. You lead with love, while we wait on the sidelines. Forgive us for always for going our own way; bring us back to rightful place of following you. Fill our hearts with hope that won't let go.

Silent Prayer

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain made low.

Now the glory of the Lord is revealed.

In the Name of Jesus Christ, I tell you we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Muddassar Iqbal, liturgist

Isaiah 64:1-9

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,

or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered^{us} us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

SOLO

Love Bade Me Welcome
from Five Mystical Songs

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)

Michael Manganiello, *baritone*

Love bade me welcome. Yet my soul drew back
Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,
If I lacked any thing.

A guest, I answered, worthy to be here:
Love said, You shall be he.
I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,
I cannot look on thee.
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
Who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?
My dear, then I will serve.
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:
So I did sit and eat.

George Herbert
(1593-1633)

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 13:24-37

“But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he^[a] is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert;^[b] for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

SERMON

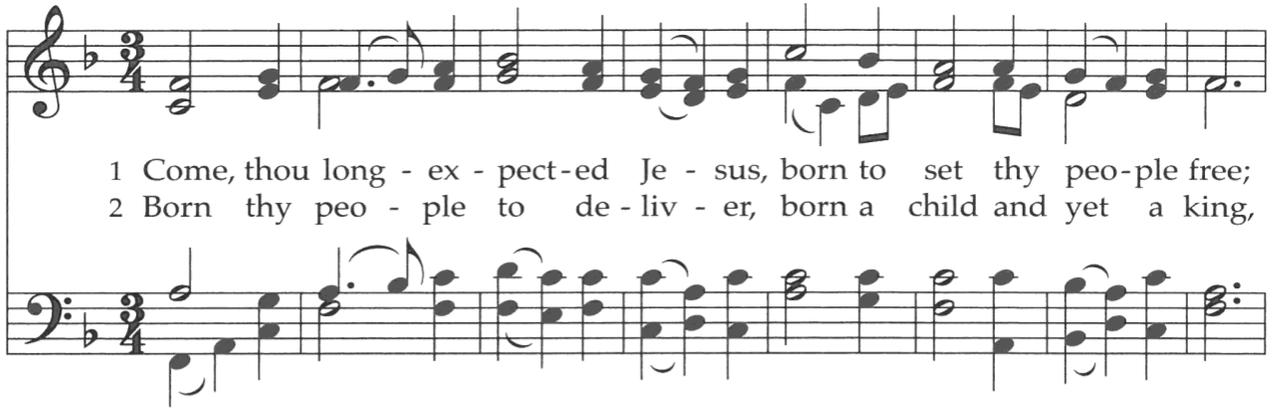
A Season of Waiting

Rev. John V. Carlson

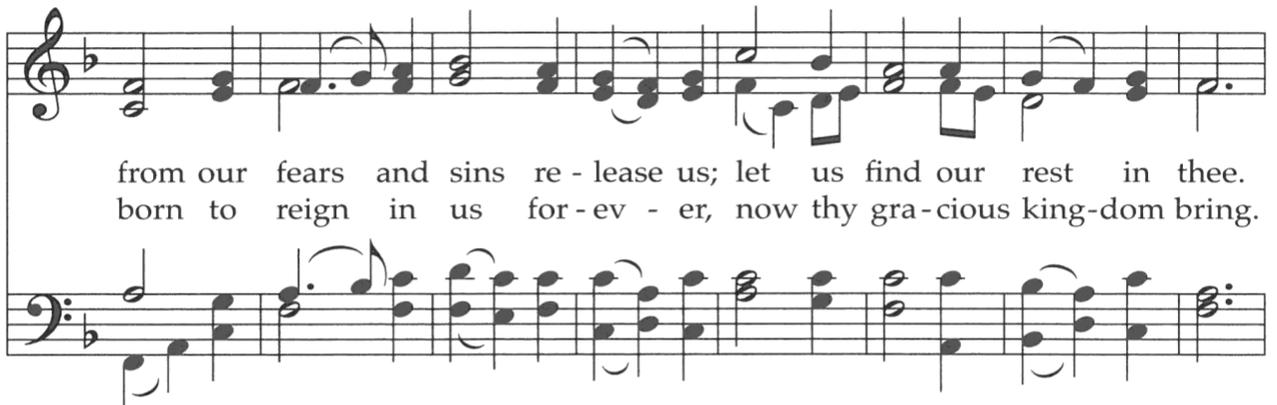
HYMN OF RESPONSE 2

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

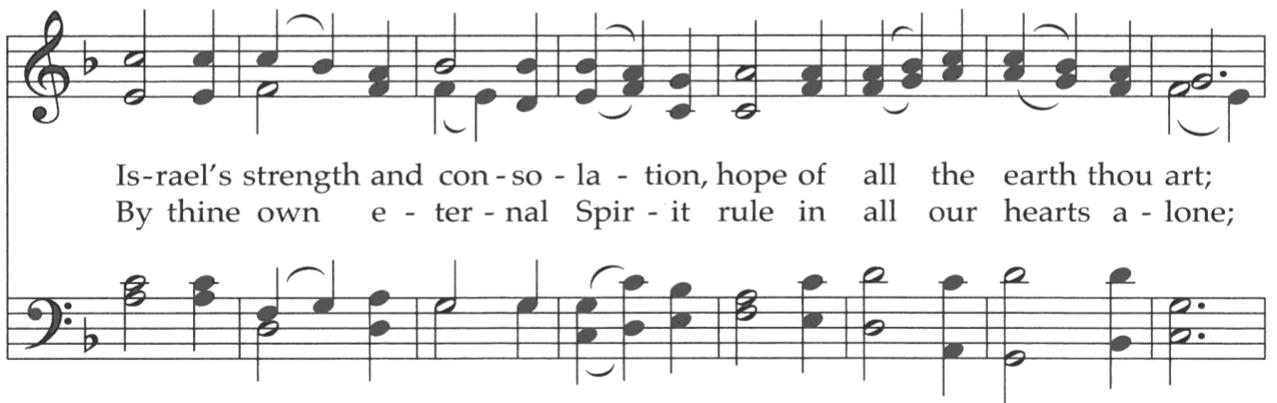
HYFRYDOL



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please use the chat forum to enter your prayers and we will share those as a part of our communal worship.

O God, in your mercy.

Hear our prayers.

PURPLE RIBBON LIST

11/23/2020	Bernard Richardson	44	Male	Unknown
11/21/2020	Diamond David	21	Female	Unknown
11/21/2020	Lezette Jackson	48	Female	Unknown
11/19/2020	Maurice Glenn	20	Male	Unknown
11/18/2020	Glen Gawne, Jr.	32	Male	White
11/12/2020	Tavon Paul	28	Male	Black

Each ribbon represents a life lost to homicide in Baltimore City. We name them each week and hang a purple ribbon on the outside of Park Ave. to remind us to pray for the perpetrators of these acts of violence, and to remind us of our calling to challenge the systemic injustices of our time.

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.**

OFFERTORY

See invitation to give in the Chat Box on Zoom and Facebook Live.

If you wish to give via Paypal, you will need to open a new tab on your browser.

If you need assistance please request help from either of our E-Ushers:

Allie Pyan alexandra.pyan@gmail.com or Sabrina Schlosser Schumann ssschuma@gmail.com

If you would like to give your offering by mail, please send to the church office at First & Franklin Presbyterian Church, 210 West Madison Street, Baltimore MD 21201. Offerings will be processed weekly.

AT THE OFFERTORY

Yes, Indeed! *from* Carols and Cries

Daniel Pinkham
(1923-2006)

Michael Manganiello, *baritone*

Joys secure God's Michael sings - born to us is Israel's King.

Yes, indeed, yes, indeed!

O joys of Season new, O joys of wondrous News.

Highest heaven sing of Glory, speaking peace to ev'ry country.

Yes, indeed, yes, indeed!

O joys of Season new, O joys of wondrous News.

Our fatherland to us he gives wherein life is ours to live.

Yes, indeed, yes, indeed!

O joys of Season new, O joys of wondrous News.

Thus let us avoid all sin which each virtue brings to ruin.

Yes, indeed, yes, indeed!

O joys of Season new, O joys of wondrous News.

Faithfulness her lilies casts, maidenhood gives birth at last.

Eugene A. Green
(1944-1989)

DOXOLOGY 591

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

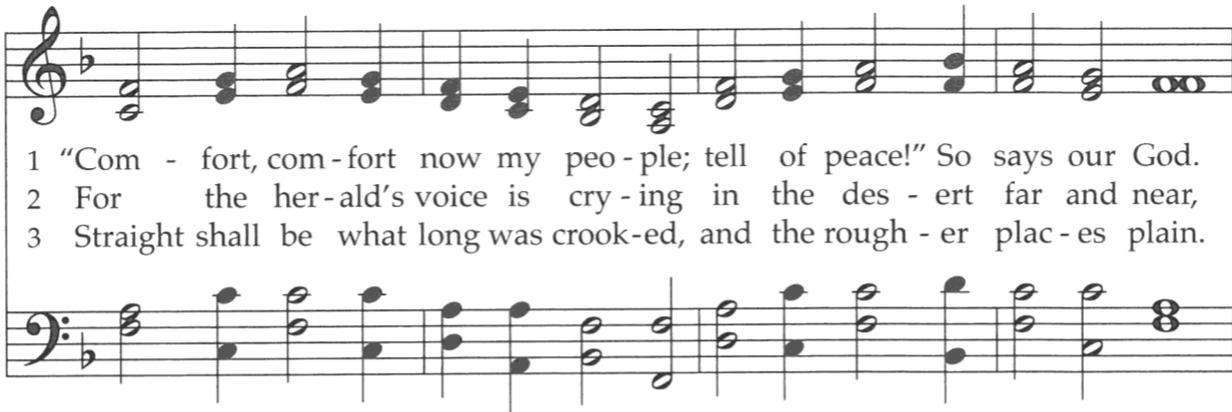
PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, through these material offerings--and through the offering of our very lives, may your vision of unity for all creation reach out from this faith community into the world around us. May we place all that we have, all that we do, and all that we are in your hands, so that you may use us in your might work of reconciling the world. Amen.

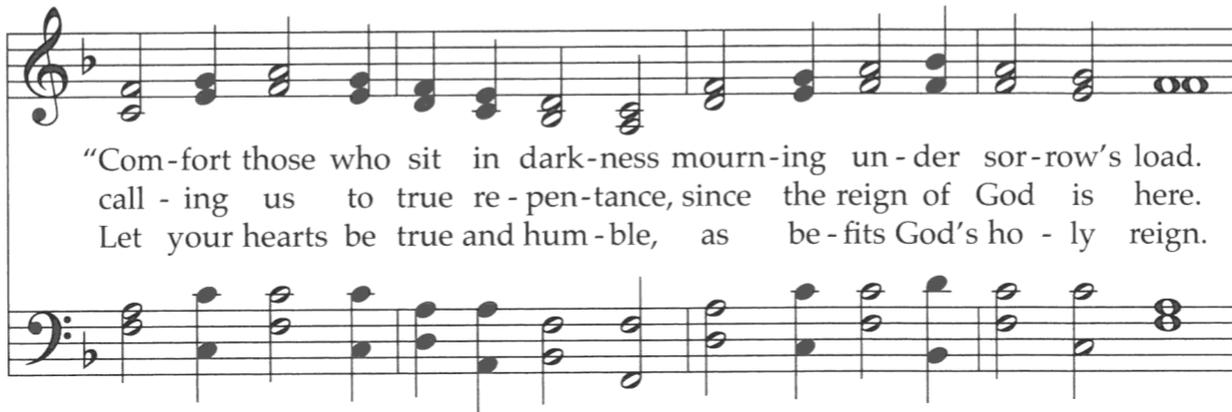
SENDING HYMN 3

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

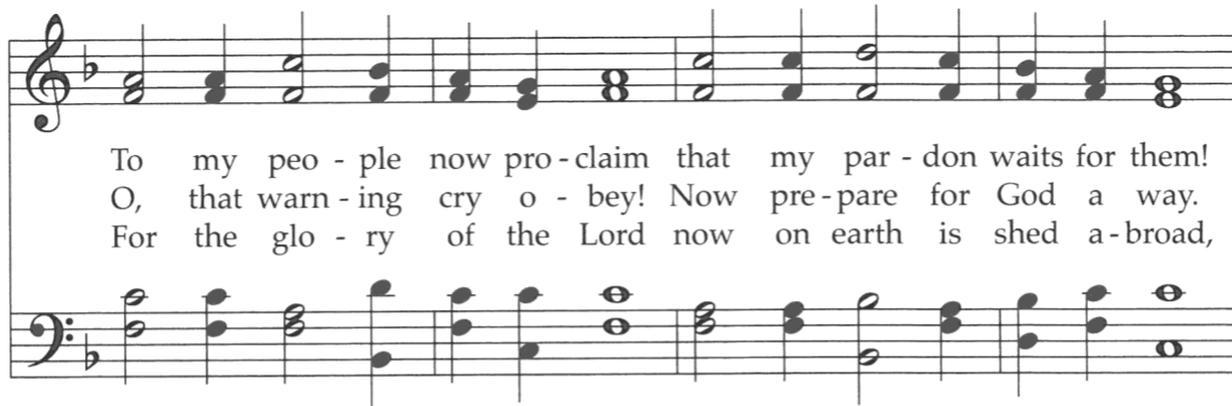
PSALM 42



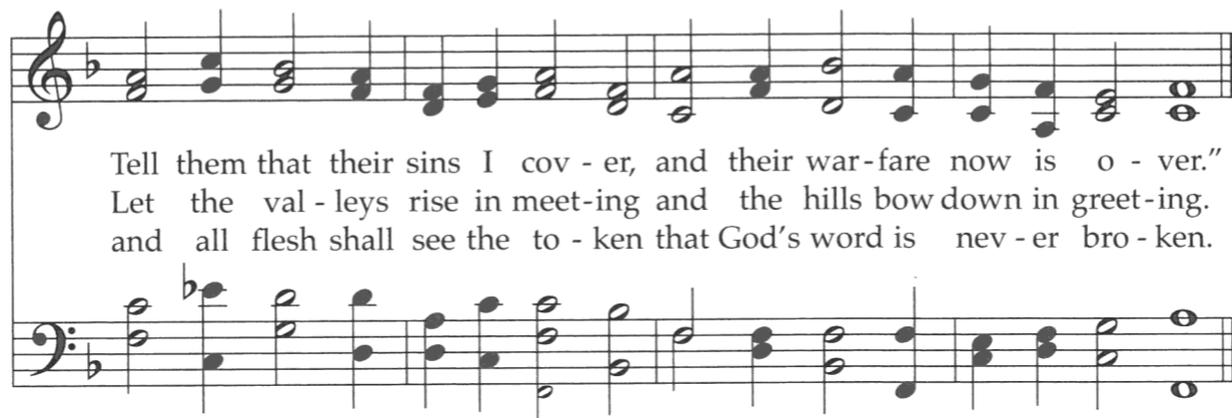
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!
O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude on the Welsh Hymn Tune *Hyfrydol*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

ONLINE FELLOWSHIP

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. John V. Carlson, *preacher*

Muddassar Iqbal, *liturgist*

Jason Kissel, *organist*

Taylor Brooks, *tech support*

Marianne Shick, *soprano*

Sandra Smith, *alto*

Don Juedes, *tenor*

Michael Manganiello, *baritone*

~ ~ ~

STAFF

Jason Kissel, DMA, *Minister of Music & Organist*

George Meagher, *Sexton*

Wanda Morgan, *Office Administrator/Wedding Coordinator*

The church office is open 8am-4pm Monday-Friday

Office: 410-728-5545 Fax: 410-728-0722

information@firstfranklin.org

firstfranklin.org

November 1, 2020	\$ 1260.00
November 9, 2020	\$ 2940.00
November 16, 2020	\$ 6620.00
November 23, 2020	\$18624.00
November PayPal	\$ 1732.00

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Because of the recent upsurge in COVID cases, and in order to provide a consistent schedule, Session has decided to suspend worship in the sanctuary for the rest of calendar year 2020. Virtual worship will continue using the Zoom and Facebook platforms. While we regret this step back from in-person worship, we believe it is necessary to protect the health of our guest preachers, others facilitating worship, and worshippers. Session will review this decision in mid-December.

JOHN V. CARLSON, GUEST PREACHER

The Rev. John V. “Jack” Carlson retired from active ministry in the PCUSA in January, 2016. Prior to his retirement, he served for 13 years as Pastor at Highland Presbyterian Church, in Harford County, MD. Before that he served churches in Lockport, NY, and Hyattsville, MD, and was a pastoral counselor for more than 20 years in the Washington DC area. After serving a term as Moderator of the Presbytery of Baltimore, in September of 2017 he was elected Stated Clerk of the Presbytery; he retired from that post in 2020. He has published three books: *The Spiritual Dimensions of Self-Esteem*, *The Spiritual Power of Communication*, and *The Disciple's Song*, a poetic rendering of the Gospel of Mark. Jack is married to Lynn McCormick Carlson and has three grown children and three grandchildren. In his retirement, he hopes to spend time with his grandchildren, oil painting (mostly landscapes), travel, and golf.

IF NEED OF PASTORAL ASSISTANCE?

With our current Pastor vacancy, if you need pastoral assistance, please call the church office (410) 728-5545 (Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm) and we will direct your concern to an Associate Pastor for follow up.

LITURGISTS NEEDED!

We will be transitioning back to the use of lay liturgists for Sunday Worship. Liturgists can serve virtually via Zoom as long as they have a stable internet connection.

Open Dates: Dec. 24, 27, Jan. 3, 17, 24, 31.

Please contact the church office if you are willing to serve. Thank you for considering it.

THANK YOU FROM JASON KISSEL

Dear Church Family,

Your ability to dream, plan and execute a meaningful celebration of my 20th anniversary as Minister of Music & Organist at First & Franklin Presbyterian Church – both during a pandemic AND without my knowing about it – is an enduring reminder to me of what an extraordinary congregation you are, and how grateful I am to have spent two decades of my life making music with this community of faith! The choral composition, *The Heavens Declare*, which you commissioned from First & Franklin choir member, Jeremy Earnest, is a glorious rendering of Psalm 19. When we return fully to in-person worship and the voices of our choir may again resound within the vaults of our sanctuary, this anthem will be among the first to be sung. The dedication of over \$3,000.00 to support one or more charitable causes or projects of my choosing is an exciting prospect, and I look forward to working together to identify or create an

opportunity for its use. Finally, Betty Schroll's heartfelt words, together with many notes of gratitude I received from you - the congregation and choir - are what I hold closest to my heart. To echo Betty's closing remarks, I, too, hope that we can do this all over again in another twenty years!

Soli deo Gloria,
Jason

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR OFFERINGS

As we all recognize real concerns for our friends who will experience hardships through this disruption in regular routines, so too, we need to be mindful that your weekly contributions are critical to helping us maintain the financial obligations of the church. Payroll, mortgages, electricity and the rest are needs we must continue to cover, and your continued support of your pledges will be even more important while we are tele-worshipping. In addition to accepting your pledges by mail to the church office, we have recently added a PayPal link to the top of our new website which will allow us to process donations with this link: **[GIVE](#)**. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

MESSAGE FROM CLERK OF SESSION

Members and Friends,

For those of you who made a pledge to the church at the beginning of the year, you will soon be receiving your third quarter Contribution Report. We are grateful to those who have been able to keep their pledging and gifts up-to-date, and we fully understand that this is difficult for others. We would ask that everyone consider what they are able to give prayerfully and respond as you are able. We would especially encourage any who have not seen financial impacts from the pandemic to increase their giving if possible.

The church office continues to process your contributions weekly whether you use a check or PayPal. We also appreciate all the contributions received by those who are not currently set up with an annual pledge. Your generous gifts are also critical to helping us continue our mission.

The work of First & Franklin goes on: worship, education, the weekly food pantry, the Alternative Christmas Market continues. Please, as you are able, look for ways to contribute your time, talents, and financial support.

For the Session,
Jim Schroll

PASTORAL SEARCH FEEDBACK COMMENTS - link on the front page of our website.

If you have comments or concerns to share with Session as we move forward with the process of discerning the steps to fill our pastoral vacancy, please know that your opinions are valued. If you would like to share anything with us, please click here.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSek4zr5zVp8k_b8ZKQhh8APMyVb1ncoEp5-d7aFK9i7wIzN_g/viewform

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Theology on Tap will resume after the Thanksgiving holiday with a study through Peter Enn's book, "*How the Bible Actually Works*".

"Controversial evangelical Bible scholar, popular blogger and podcast host of The Bible for Normal People, and author of *The Bible Tells Me So* and *The Sin of Certainty* explains that the Bible is not an instruction manual or rule book but a powerful learning tool that nurtures our spiritual growth by refusing to provide us with easy answers but instead forces us to acquire wisdom."

If you are interested in joining this study, please email Sarah Lloyd (saramcgawllloyd17@gmail.com) and let her know that you're interested. The book is available for purchase on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and your local bookstores. If affording the book will be a hurdle, please let us know so we can arrange to help you.

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS

Although the pandemic has severely limited our ability to say our goodbye with the Hoch family, we know that those tender ties are important. As they prepare to transition to the UK and the Church of Scotland, they would value your written notes of thanksgiving and well-wishes. While they don't have a set date of departure yet, they anticipate going to the UK sometime in mid to late November. Until then, their address in Baltimore is 1325 Park Avenue, Baltimore MD 21217. Or you can write to them at:

Rev. Robert P. Hoch & Rebecca M. Hoch

Gwendoline, Imogen, Gabriel, and Iris

The Manor House

Twiston

Clitheroe, Lancashire

BB7 4DD

United Kingdom

Phone | 01200 445 425

Email | rhoch87@gmail.com

By the way, we know that Gwendoline, Imogen, Gabriel, and Iris have meant a lot to this community and will be missed. Children love handwritten notes so please consider sending the Hoch's a note as they embark on a new adventure.

CHURCH BEYOND THE BUILDING REPORT - OCTOBER 19, 2020

As you know by now, the church relies on its endowment for a significant portion of our operating budget. In addition, we are still paying off a loan for the interior renovations and are facing the need for exterior repairs and organ renovations which might cost as much as \$2 million. Such an operating model is not sustainable in the long run, and even before the COVID-19 pandemic Session was considering how to address the problem. Three task forces were formed to consider how we use our property (to either reduce our operating costs or to raise income); how much we might be able to raise in a capital campaign (to raise funds to pay off our loan and repair the exterior of the church); and how we might do church differently (to better respond to the community's needs and/or reduce our operating costs). The third task force, made up of Muddassar Iqbal, David Wallace, and Jim Schroll, operated under the title of "Church Beyond the Building". Its two aims were to brainstorm about what other models we might consider and, more importantly, what concerns would we need to address IF we were to consider another operating model. What follows are the results of those two efforts.

Click to read report: [CBtB](#)

THE SPIRE SERIES

Do you know that First & Franklin has a YouTube page? There, you may view performances from the 2020 summer series of mini concerts, all recorded live in First & Franklin's sanctuary. You may also revisit last May's virtual piano marathon concert! Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2QwYlynh7VYhxAYt-9cm2g>

You can also view the August Spire Series recordings on Facebook.

FOOD PANTRY AT FIRST & FRANKLIN

Another 37 bags were handed out last week. We want to make sure people understand that they do not have to give large amounts. Buying an extra box of pasta or donating \$10 if that is what works for you is impactful and welcome.

Our food pantry needs replenishing in light of increasing demand. If you have the resources to do so, please consider donating non-perishables (see list below) or financial contributions. Please also consider joining us on Saturdays from about 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We continue to staff a Saturday food pantry in Reid Chapel from 12:00- 2:00 p.m. There is a growing flow of neighbors who come regularly. The last four weeks we have given out 34, 34, 29, and 35 bags of groceries. We have built connections with residents at Westminster House for whom we drop off additional bags of food for those who cannot make the walk to Reid Chapel. Relationships are growing with some neighbors by asking how they are doing and giving them a chance to talk. The congregation has been generous in donating food items. This help needs to be encouraged as we are at a point of breaking even between donations and needs, and the needs shall surely increase as additional government support ends.

In each grocery bag we pack food for breakfast, peanut butter and jelly (a good source of protein) for lunch, the makings for a balanced dinner such as beans and rice, pasta and sauce, canned meat, soup, vegetables, and fruit, and a paper good. If there is room left in the bag, we are now adding a little fun food, such as popcorn or cookies, for everyone enjoys a treat.

Contributions of shelf stable foods can be brought to Reid Chapel every Saturday between 12 noon and 2:00 p.m. If shopping is difficult for you, monetary donations earmarked food pantry may be sent to the church and we will shop for you.

Foods we are currently low in are:

Apple sauce, canned fruit and dried fruit
Rice and beans
Peanut butter and jelly
Cereal and canned or powdered milk
Tuna fish and canned meats
Spaghetti

Soup
Canned corn (and other vegetables)
Popcorn and cookies
Paper towels
Toilet paper

How else can you help? We need volunteers to help collect and distribute food every Saturday. Sabrina Schumann is coordinating the volunteers. You may reach her by email at ssschuma@gmail.com or phone 240-481-6929. You can also help by spreading the word to those you know who are facing food insecurity.

Thank you,
The Peacemaking Committee

MORNING PRAYER | 7:00am

Please join us online: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
Zoom Event Click: [MORNING PRAYER](#)

DID YOU MISS A SUNDAY?

Or did you want to re-visit a particular sermon from our congregational life?
Please visit: [Sermons](#)

NEED TECH HELP? OR SOME EXTRA SUPPORT AROUND ACCESSING OUR ONLINE SERVICES?

Please call Taylor Brooks and he'll set up a time to visit with you about your tech needs. His contact information is below:

Taylor Brooks, Audio Engineer/Electronic Gizmo Wunderkind
Contact by phone or email: 336-341-2294
asoundresource@gmail.com

Prayers from 11/22/2020

Thankful for a successful surgery for George Schroll, Jim's brother. [Betty]

Prayers for the Mt. Vernon Community. Wishing everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving! [Randy]

Another 25 bags of groceries were shared with our community through your generosity.

For Marla's son who has lost his job.

Prayers for Becca's father with memory issues and her sister a nurse to stay well as she serves the sick.

For all who will be separated from friends and family this week. [Susan]

Prayers for Beth's Mom who has fallen and is hospitalized again but is hoping for a transfer to rehab soon.

Prayers of thanks for our entire staff – Wanda, George, Taylor, Jason, Deborah and all our volunteers.
[Beth]

Prayers that the divisions in our country can be healed.

Prayers from 11/15/2020

Prayers for all those in the hospital today and those who will need hospitalization in the coming weeks.
[Laurel]

Prayers for Meg Jones and her family as she faces her diagnosis of stage 4 pancreatic cancer. [Charley]

Prayers for Laura's Aunt who is recovering from surgery. [Laura]

A prayer for a smooth passing for my cousin Betty who is at the end stage of her life suffering with brain cancer. [Maura]

For all the frontline workers in hospitals and EMTs, etc. [Susan]

Prayers for my son's best friend's Mom who is seriously ill with Covid. [Marla]

Prayers to those who offer their service to keep our church alive and serving the community. [Maggy]

Prayers for those in the Native American reservations. [Marla]

Blessings on those who are able to keep up their contributions to sustain the church and our campus.
[Beth]

Thanksgiving for my granma, Marian, who celebrated her 92nd birthday. [Allie]

Prayers for a couple who are my dear friends, John who had a stroke and is at Hopkins and Cathy who has just been diagnosed with breast cancer. [Jill]

Grateful for all our volunteers who are guest preachers and liturgists. [Beth]

Prayers for Paula as she faces more challenges to healing and my friends and family who have lost their beloved David. [Maggy]

Thank you, Steve Hollaway, for a compelling sermon, challenging us to all think deeply about how to step forward with confidence in the risk-taking. [Audrey]

Prayers for all educators – for their health and safety. My own Mother, a teacher of 20+ years, is facing a directive to return to the classroom (even as there is an outbreak of Covid among the staff.) A teacher's assistant there recently passed away from Covid. [Taylor]

Prayers for our government officials and for a smooth transition of power. [Beth]

Prayers of thanksgiving for Dorothy Janzen as she celebrates her birthday this month.

Prayers of thanks for our entire staff – Wanda, George, Taylor, Jason, Deborah and all our volunteers.
[Beth]

Prayers for Kevin Hunter, friend of the church, who has Covid-19. [Beth]

Prayers for our brothers and sisters in Taguasco. [Betty]

For the Mt. Vernon Community and for those who help each week with the Food Pantry. We distributed another 30 bags of food to those in need. And for a friend who has Covid. [Randy]

Prayers for a good friend, Officer William Evans who passed away. He patrolled the streets of Mt. Vernon.
[Anne]

Lydon Peters, Jim Peters' father, who has been diagnosed with brain cancer. [Rodney]