



Christ
Presbyterian
Church

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday, July 10, 2021

5:00pm

Sunday, July 11, 2021

11:00am

Welcome

We're glad you're with us today. In accordance with the new Montgomery County policy, masks and social distancing are not required for church services. Please feel free to continue to wear a mask or to worship without one.

Please note that Montgomery County recommends (but not requires) that masks be worn "indoors and outdoors, particularly when physical distancing cannot be maintained, for people 2 years and older who are not fully vaccinated." The Session encourages parents to make their own decisions as to whether to require their children to wear masks.

Reflection

Nevertheless, though a trusted cupbearer, Nehemiah is "very much afraid" for he is about to ask the king to change the imperial policy and allow him to rebuild a city that had earlier been scandalized as rebellious. Again, he prays before making his bold request. From the secular viewpoint Nehemiah's personal integrity and loyalty to the king as his cupbearer reverses the king's suspicions, but from the viewpoint of faith Nehemiah attributes his success to God: "The gracious hand of my God was upon me." Therefore, the king granted Nehemiah not only permission to return to Jerusalem, but the necessary provisions for rebuilding its walls. Moreover, the hand of God also inclined the king to send army officers and cavalry with Nehemiah.

Bruce Waltke, *An Old Testament Theology*

Call to Worship – Deuteronomy 32:1,3

Leader: Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak,

All: And let the earth hear the words of my mouth.

Leader: For I will proclaim the name of the Lord;

All: Ascribe greatness to our God!

Prayer of Adoration (Concluded by the Lord's Prayer)

All: 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 and ever. Amen.

All Creatures of our God and King

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise Him, O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heav'n along, O praise Him!
Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice, ye lights of ev'ning find a voice!
O praise Him, O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

And all ye men of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part, O sing ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God and on Him cast your care!
O praise Him, O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless and worship Him in humbleness, O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise Him, O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

How Shall I Sing?

How shall I sing that majesty, that angels do admire?
Their thunderous voices bid me come, Sing, sing oh heavenly choir!

*Thousands and thousands stand before Your throne
O God Most High
Sing all you saints and all created things
To praise the Lord of life*

Let planets spin in sheer delight, while galaxies conspire
To fill the universe with light, Sing, sing oh heavenly choir!

The saints who lived and died in grace, have found their hearts' desire
To gaze upon the Saviour's face, Sing, sing oh heavenly choir!

So let my voice resound with those, whose praise will never die
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Sing, sing oh heavenly choir!

Confessional Reading – 1 Samuel 17:45-47

⁴⁵ Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷ and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand.”

Confession of Sin

Leader: Almighty, glorious God, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

All: Yet we so often endure those who profane and blaspheme your name without reproving them or even being grieved.

Leader: We do not defend the glory of your name and often do not courageously act and speak counter to a culture that treats your name as a small thing.

*All: Forgive us, gracious Father, and help us to honor your name and to grieve hearing it used in vain. We pray this in the blessed name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.*

Private Confession

Words of Encouragement — 1 Chronicles 7:14-16

¹⁴ If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. ¹⁵ Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place. ¹⁶ For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time.

Here is Love

Here is love, vast as the ocean, lovingkindness as the flood,
When the Prince of life, our ransom, shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember? Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten, throughout Heav'n's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion, fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God's mercy, flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers, poured incessant from above,
And heav'n's peace and perfect justice, kissed a guilty world in love.

Let me all Thy love accepting, love Thee, ever all my days;
Let me seek Thy kingdom only, and my life be to Thy praise;
Thou alone shalt be my glory, nothing in the world I see.
Thou hast cleansed and sanctified me, Thou Thyself hast set me free.

In Thy truth Thou dost direct me, by Thy Spirit through Thy Word;
And Thy grace my need is meeting, as I trust in Thee, my Lord.
Of Thy fullness Thou art pouring, thy great love and power on me,
Without measure, full and boundless, drawing out my heart to Thee.

Congregational Prayer

Children's Recessional

Sermon: The Request

Scripture Reading – Nehemiah 2:1-8

¹ In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. ² And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid. ³ I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" ⁴ Then the

king said to me, "What are you requesting?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵ And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it." ⁶ And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), "How long will you be gone, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time. ⁷ And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah, ⁸ and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy." And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

Outline:

1. Nehemiah's request
2. The king's unexpected favor
3. The greater request with undeserved favor

Figure A.

Esther 4:1-2 ¹ When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and he cried out with a loud and bitter cry. ² He went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one was allowed to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth.

Figure B.

Ezra 4:23 When the copy of King Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum and Shimshai the scribe and their associates, they went in haste to the Jews at Jerusalem and by force and power made them cease.

Figure C.

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

Figure D.

Luke 17:17 Jesus answered, "Were not ten lepers cleansed? Where are the other nine?"

Figure E.

John 12:27-28 "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name."

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Christ Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the gospel, to receive the Holy Communion with us. Baptized children are welcome to receive Communion after they profess faith and are received as communicant members. If you are not able to receive Communion, please speak with Pastor Matt after the service to learn how to receive Jesus Christ.

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid, here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Benediction – Philippians 4:19-20

God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Announcements

Haroun Wedding

Praise the Lord for the joining of Wale and Ayoko in marriage on Friday.

Vacation Bible School

Praise God for an encouraging experience at VBS this week.

Food Pantry Service on Monday, July 26 from 7-9pm

Many of the food pantry's regular volunteers are away in July, so we would like to bring fresh assistance. On Monday, July 26, we will prepare parcels of food which will be distributed the next day. Mitch Machiela and his son Simon plan to attend. Pastor Roberts and his son William also plan to go.

An overture from Shady Grove's Elder Board

The Session of Shady Grove contacted us this week with something quite unexpected. They asked us to dialogue with them about the possibility of merging the two churches into one assembly. For many years Shady Grove has struggled to attract young families and in the next three years, many of their members plan to retire. Furthermore, Pastor Baile feels that he is perhaps not the best person to lead Shady Grove in its next chapter. The Shady Grove Session asked us to consider merging our officers and staff with their teams. Pastor Baile would become the Associate Pastor and Pastor Roberts would become the Lead Pastor of the new assembly.

Obviously, there are many considerations to weigh.

On the negative side, Shady Grove Pres is 12.5 miles from Gibbs. In addition to the longer travel time for our members, our ministry to Germantown would diminish. Moreover, we risk losing our church's distinct identify and close-knit community if we merge with a larger organization.

On the positive side, during our church's discussions about commercial property, the congregation expressed interest in researching options to lease from an existing church. Shady Grove's mortgage is paid-in-full. We would also be a significant help to Shady Grove with its current needs.

The Shady Grove Elder Board asked that our Elder Board meet with them on Tuesday, July 20 to open the conversation. Our Session felt it best to at least hear them out. Our Session would like to stress that our denomination's *Book of Church Order* states that the congregation, not the Session, has the final say in this type of decision. We'll communicate with you after we learn more at the July 20 meeting. Please pray for discernment.

Contact Us

Website: www.christ-pca.org

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2U2SRcwGNafd3ffrPEjnUF?si=UdZ5UhX2Qf66SDCwWyah5g>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChristPresPCA>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/christprespca/>

Online Giving: <http://www.christ-pca.org/online-giving/>

Deacon Ministry: deacons@christ-pca.org

Pastor Roberts: pastor@christ-pca.org