



20th Sunday After Pentecost

October 18, 2020

Park Hill Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

3520 JFK Blvd. North Little Rock AR

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GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Annabel Stavey

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to remember what God has done,
come to celebrate what God is doing,
come to seek God's future.
For it is God's faithfulness that defines our lives.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"All Hail To God's Anointed"

Annabel Stavey

All hail to God's anointed, great David's greater Son!
All hail, in time appointed, your reign on earth begun!

You come to break oppression, to set the captive free,
to take away transgression and rule in equity.

You come with rescue speedy to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy and bid the weak be strong;

To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in your sight.

You shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in your path to birth.

Before you on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

All rulers bow before you, and gold and incense bring.
All nations shall adore you; your praise all people sing.

To you shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend.
Your rule is still increasing; your rule is without end.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God knows that we struggle to keep God's decrees.. Pretending that we are more saint than sinner serves to deceive only ourselves. When we are honest about our

failings, the Spirit re-forms us so that our faith can bear fruit in the world. Let us pray to confess.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, your generous love calls us to your way. We confess that our practice of generosity is not always faithful. We are prone to deciding what others need, imposing our desires on them without asking...as we often do to you. We confess that we presume to know your mind, rather than pausing to listen for your will. Forgive us when our self-centered way of giving harms the dignity of others and breaks down relationships. Forgive us when we confined your generosity to our terms, trapping your love in our systems and stories. Guide us to your truth and free us by your grace.

HYMN OF FORGIVENESS “Amazing Love” (You Are My King)

I'm forgiven because you were forsaken
I'm accepted, you were condemned
I'm alive and well Your spirit is within me
Because you died and rose again [x2]

Amazing love, how can it be? That you, my king, would die for me
Amazing love, I know it's true And its my joy to honor you. In all I do, I honor you.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear this good news: the love of God will never be taken from us. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is for you, that you may walk in faith and live in peace. Know that you are forgiven, loved, and free. *Thanks be to God. Amen.*

SHARING AND HEARING GOD’S WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Ryan video

LESSON

2 Samuel 7:1-17

¹ Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” ³ Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.”

⁴ But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵ Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but

I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷ Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders^[a] of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”

⁸ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹ and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies.

Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. ¹⁵ But I will not take^[b] my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me;^[c] your throne shall be established forever.

¹⁷ In accordance with all these words and with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

SERMON

Rev. Marie Mainard-O’Connell

MUSIC MEDITATION

Annabel Stavey

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us join in prayer together, saying: Merciful maker, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed creator, look with favor on all that you have made, and where there is brokenness, provide healing. Where the earth is misused, awaken caretakers for growth and renewal. You have given us great powers of perception and creativity—help us to harness these for

the good of all who live on this planet. Enable us to walk alongside those in need, and to empower them. Merciful maker, **hear our prayer.**

Prince of Peace and Ruler of nations, be with our world leaders now, and endow them with patience and foresight to act for the greater good, not to win a contest, but provide peace and prosperity. Bless leaders to reject the temptation to dismiss others as unworthy of mercy or respect, and instead pursue justice and wellness for all. Merciful maker, **hear our prayer.**

Bless especially our own leaders, of our nation, state and city, that each would act from a desire to see their neighbors prosper. Help them reject racism and prejudice based on gender or class. Help them to transform the systems that cause poverty, incarceration and disease. Help our government to do justice, seek mercy and kindness and walk humbly with you. Merciful maker, **hear our prayer.**

Be with parents and teachers, leaders of other faiths, public servants and all who serve others, especially those who bring comfort to the sick and dying. Open our eyes to the ill, or grieving, or lonely. Open our arms and our lives to welcome in the stranger, the outcast, and the unworthy. Make us not so safe that we have no connection to the hungry, the homeless, and the poor. Crack open our comfortable places, so that your light of welcome might shine in, and set us free. Merciful maker, **hear our prayer.**

Bless also, Lord, those lives we have lost to death, that their example might teach us better ways of living, and so encouraged we might live each day to its fullest. Teach us to pray as Jesus taught us, saying...

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.

GIVING OF OUR OFFERINGS AND TITHES

Your support remains vital to our ability to do ministry. You can give online by going to www.parkhillpres.org and the tab “giving.” You can also mail offerings to the church office. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance —supplies, bills, prescriptions or hope— please speak directly with our elder for Congregational Care, Mary Henry.

Offertory	“Praise To The Lord, The Almighty	Virtual Handbell Choir
Doxology	“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”	Virtual Choir

**Praise and Glory to the Father, praise and Glory to the Son,
Praise and Glory to the Spirit, ever three and ever one.**

Prayer

Merciful God, you give us all good things, including the faith to follow you, and the Spirit to discern your will. Take our lives and all the blessings you have given us, and use us for your will in the world, to share the good news, and bring about your kingdom on earth. Amen.

HYMN OF SENDING	“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”	Virtual Choir
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Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

During this time of separation, please “pass the peace”
in a phone call, letter, or text, saying to someone else,

“I’m reaching out to wish you peace and love. Peace be with you.” “And also with you.”

“May the Peace of Christ be with you.” “And also with you.”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

As you go forth into the world, remember you are of the earth and God’s very breath.

“The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD’s face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.”

POSTLUDE

Annabel Stavey