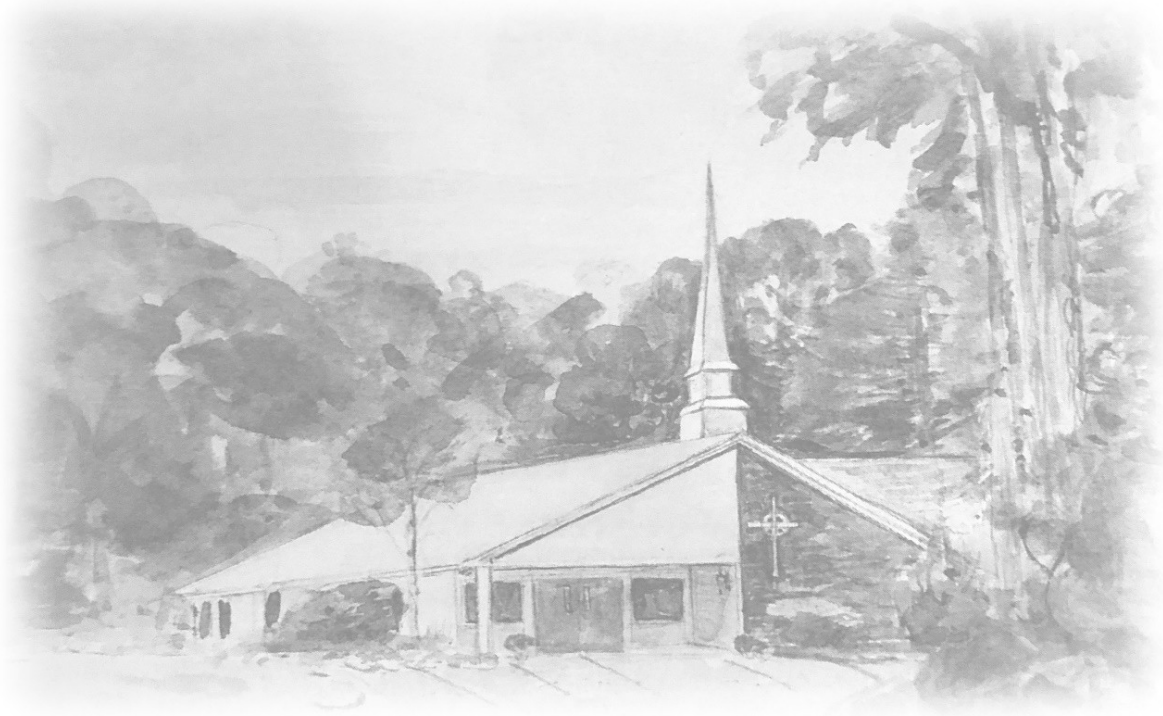


# *Presbyterian Church of Cape Cod*



**“I was glad when they said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord!” Psalm 122:1**

*The Lord’s Day*

April 19, 2020

Rev. Dr. James A. La Belle, Pastor

Morning Worship 10:00 am – Afternoon Study 4:30 pm

*We welcome you* to the Lord’s house, to the worship of the living and true God, and into the fellowship of this congregation.

**LIVE STREAMING @**

<http://presbyterianchurchofcapecod.com/live-stream/>

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**GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP HIM AS OUR GOD**

*Psalm 68:4-6*

**A PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**THE CONFESSION OF OUR FAITH IN GOD**

Q. 134. *Which is the sixth commandment?*

A. The sixth commandment is, *Thou shalt not kill.*

Q. 135. *What are the duties required in the sixth commandment?*

A. The duties required in the sixth commandment are, all careful studies, and lawful endeavors, to preserve the life of ourselves and others by resisting all thoughts and purposes, subduing all passions, and avoiding all occasions, temptations, and practices, which tend to the unjust taking away the life of any; by just defense thereof against violence, patient bearing of the hand of God, quietness of mind, cheerfulness of spirit; a sober use of meat, drink, physic, sleep, labor, and recreations; by charitable thoughts, love, compassion, meekness, gentleness, kindness; peaceable, mild and courteous speeches and behavior; forbearance, readiness to be reconciled, patient bearing and forgiving of injuries, and requiting good for evil; comforting and succoring the distressed, and protecting and defending the innocent.

**THE CONFESSION OF OUR SINS TO GOD**

O Lord, we marvel that you would take on flesh and blood in order to be crucified, killed and buried for us. You humbled yourself and submitted to the hatred of sinful men accepting the thorns, the whip, the nails and the spear to free us from sin and death forever. We praise you for your costly obedience and your righteousness to stand in place of our unrighteousness. Even though we may not have murdered anyone, we confess that we have all hated and continue to hate others in our hearts. Our hearts rise up often to judge others to disdain and condemn them, to dismiss them from our circle of friends, to

murder the reputation of others through gossip and slander. We are capable of great unkindness toward enemies and loved ones when we feel fearful, threatened and disrespected. Lord forgive us for our unruly, self-centered and murderous hearts. Through the power of your Spirit, we ask for more grace to see the truth about ourselves. Make us people who breathe life into others with words of encouragement and edification instead of hating with our hearts and killing with our lips. Holy Spirit crucify our sinful desires and make us like Christ. Transform us by your powerful love so that we may truly love others and raise them up. Jesus we thank you that we will not struggle with ugly sinful hearts forever. The empty tomb calls forth our adoring wonder, for just as surely as that tomb is empty, we too will be given new life. Your return in triumphant new life proves your victory over our sin; it assures us that in the death of our sinful flesh we too will be resurrected to lives of perfect holiness, obedience and love. The resurrection fills us with hope and joy that the battle has been won and that you will walk with us faithfully until you welcome us into heaven to live with you forever. Amen! Come, LORD Jesus; come quickly!

**A SILENT MOMENT FOR CONFESSING  
PERSONAL SINS**

**GOD’S ASSURANCE THAT WE ARE PARDONED**

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.  
*Romans 5:6-11*

**SCRIPTURE RELATIVE TO TODAY’S SERMON**  
Isaiah 1:10-17

**PASTORAL PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION**  
Followed by the Lord’s Prayer (“Debts”)

**THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD OF GOD**  
James 1:26-27  
*The End of True Religion*  
Intern Derrick Leitão

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**OUTLINE**

*James 1.26-27 The End of True Religion*

<b>Worthless Religion, v. 26</b>
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- I. What is true faith in its outward expression?
  - A. We are to be doers of the word, not just hearers, deceiving ourselves (v. 22), who do not bridle the tongue (v. 26).
    - 1. Bridle can be translated as *to guide* as a bridle on a horse guides and controls the direction it goes in. If you think you are god-fearing and can’t control your tongue, you have been self-deceived.
    - 2. This does not mean we never use our tongues at all, especially in light of sharing the gospel. We must use words! But we are also to use God-given wisdom in when and how we use our tongues.
    - 3. Also, he doesn’t speak of how much we use our tongues. Cursing usually comes in short phrases and wisdom can be very wordy.
      - a) James is addressing hypocrisy (Ch. 2-4; Matt. 6.2-6),

- which for many of us can go undetected under our radar as our tongues are naturally filled with slander, deceit and lies and is destructive (Matt. 12.34; 15.11-18). It blinds the hypocrite to his own ways. How easy is it for all of us to fall into?
- (1) Especially how slander has become the acceptable sin in the church.
- (a) Lies, slander and insult of the tongue are sins liable to hell (Matt. 5.22).
- (b) In matters of dispute, James is calling them to display gentleness and self-control (Gal. 5.22-23). If not, our religion is worthless.
- i) The opposite, which is produced by passion and anger, does not produce the righteousness of God (v. 20).

Pure Religion, v. 27

- I. He breaks up pure and undefiled religion into two parts, broadly speaking: love for others and hatred of the world.
- A. He is not saying that doctrine, knowledge and teaching are not important to our faith. He is not saying that practicing our faith is all we need. Actually, the foundation of our faith is the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ (2.1).
1. What he is saying is that religion that is all talk, ritual and doctrine, with no manifestation of love and mercy is false.
- B. First, he is addressing the true standards of the law (Matt. 5-7; Gal. 6.10).
1. Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father or what is pleasing to God is this:
- a) To **visit** orphans and widows. Visiting is not just stopping by to say hello, but with care and love in our hearts for their well- being in their affliction. The wife lost a husband and the orphan lost a father. There is pain and struggle accompanying this sort of loss.
- (1) This stems from the character of God (Deut. 10.18; Ps. 10.14-18; 68.5; 146.9).
- (2) Christ displayed this character making the Fatherless children of God and adopting them into the family of God and making them heirs of all the promises of God (Acts 10.38; John 1.12-13; 14.18; Rom. 8.17; Gal. 4.1-7).
- (3) And we are called to be firstfruits of his creation (v. 18) displaying God’s character as Israel was called to in the OT (Ex. 22.22; Deut. 14.29; 16.11; 24.17-19; Ps. 82.3). (a)And this is not the only way to please God (Matt. 25.35-36)
- C. Secondly, keep yourselves heavenly minded, unstained from the world.
1. Worldliness is ingrained in our nature.
- a) To keep oneself unstained from the world does **not** mean abstaining from certain food, drink, marriage or our responsibilities in the world (1 Tim. 4.1; 5.8; Col. 2.18-23; 1 Cor. 7).
- b) Chapter 4 defines worldliness in their quarreling over their passions and desires to gain; murder; pride; and placing oneself over another in judgement, which is hypocrisy.
- (1) We live in an age that strives on speaking out of turn for self-promotion and carnal desires. We ought to grow weary of this world.
- II. Application.
- A.Ezek. 36.27
1. Is there a desire to walk in true godliness?
- B. Christ’s coming is a visitation. He visits the destitute of spirit; lowly men. The only one who is able to heal and comfort the soul, showing his eternal love and the loving character of the Father.
1. He gives us his Spirit to walk in his Spirit.
- a) Matt. 12.34. Vain religion is proclaimed with no legs to stand on.
- b) How can we who have sensed the mercy and love of God not be loving and merciful toward those who are in affliction, trials and temptations?
- c) How can we continue to chant “crucify him” again and again, so that we can ignore his hard sayings in Scripture? We are liberated to show mercy and not to be quarrelsome and domineering (1 Tim. 3.3; 2 Tim. 2.24; 1 Pet. 5.3), grounded in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- (1) This mercy was shown to us at the cross of Jesus Christ.

Can we do the same in crucifying our lusts (Gal. 5.24)?

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## **CLOSING PRAYER**

## **DOXOLOGY**

We extend a **cordial welcome** to the visitors in our service today.

Sunday Evening Sermon: **Philippians 1:8-11 A Divine Longing**

**Prayer Meeting – Wednesday, April 22, 6p.m.**

<https://zoom.us/j/693921377>

**Birthdays this week:**

**20<sup>th</sup> Ava Johnson**

**20<sup>th</sup> Britta Johnson**

**20<sup>th</sup> Rocky La Belle**

**22<sup>nd</sup> Sandy La Belle**

**Anniversaries**

**21<sup>st</sup> Jeff & Rachel Dodge**

**26<sup>th</sup> John & Julie Davis**

**The missionaries** for this month – Mark and Carla Van Essendelft serving in Nakaale, Uganda

**Bulletin announcements** should be submitted to Elly Mead by 12 noon on Wednesdays. Please e-mail to [pcccsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:pcccsecretary@gmail.com).