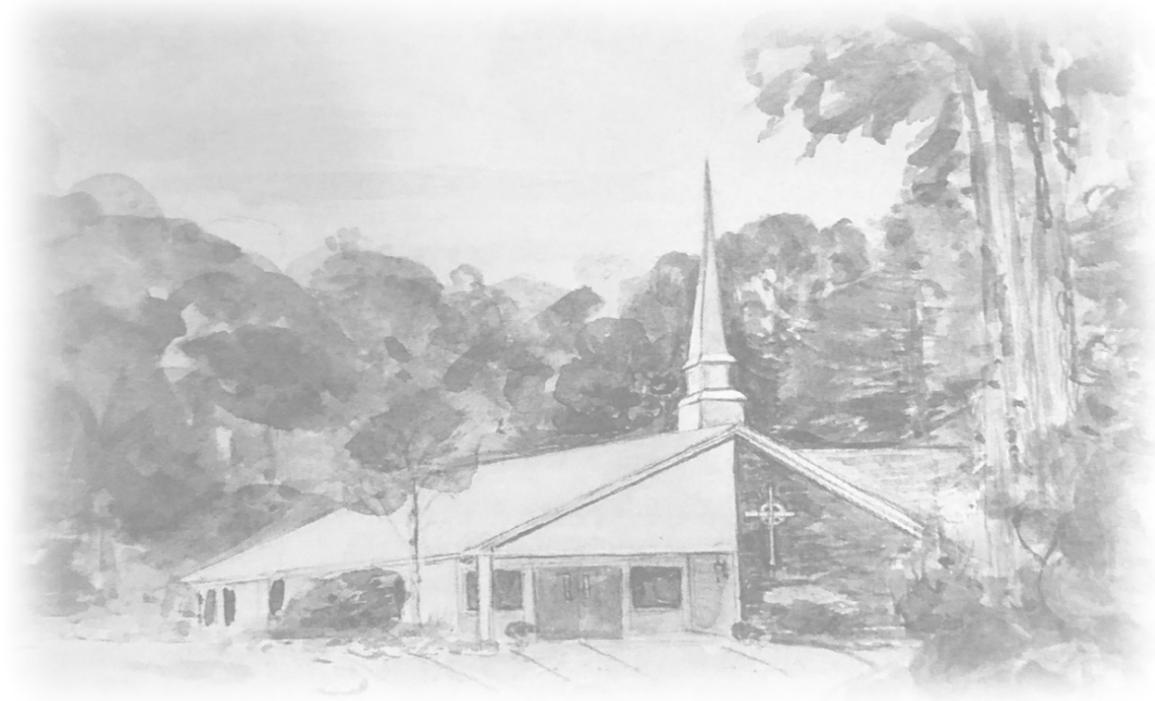


Presbyterian Church of Cape Cod



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

The Lord's Day

May 17, 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/>

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP HIM AS OUR GOD

Psalm 106:1-3

INVOCATION

THE CONFESSION OF OUR FAITH IN GOD

Westminster Larger Catechism 146-147

Q. 146 *Which is the tenth commandment?*

A. The tenth commandment is Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife nor his manservant nor his maidservant nor his ox nor his ass nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

Q. 147 *What are the duties required in the tenth commandment?*

A. The duties required in the tenth commandment are such a full contentment with our own condition and such a charitable frame of the whole soul toward our neighbor as that all our inward motions and affections touching him, tend unto and further all that good which is his.

THE CONFESSION OF OUR SINS TO GOD

O Lord, our holy God, Help us and heal us. We are stubborn, blind people who repeatedly and willfully stray away from you. Like children who don't want their parents to hold their hands while walking through a dangerous city, we will not stay near you. In our blindness, even our ability to confess our sin has been distorted. Some of us are emotionally unaffected by the fact that we are helpless sinners without your mercy and are indifferent to the cost of our rebellions. We speak words of confession out of principle, out of duty and out of habit, but rarely out of awareness of our need and our helpless state. Others of us are so undone by our habitual falls into sin that we can barely look up to you for help. Lost in the anxiety of our unbelief we speak words of confession out of fear, out of desperation and out of hopelessness but seldom out of confidence that you love us and have invited us into the blessedness of repentance and forgiveness. Loving Father,

create in us clean hearts that are truly broken for our remaining struggles with sin yet are utterly confident that your love is more than enough to reach the foulest sinner who trusts in you. Give us this trust in great abundance, Lord, as we continue to wrestle through this earthly journey. Help us to sing now with confidence that Jesus truly is our only boast and when he returns to take his ransomed children home, let us sing anew “Hallelujah, what a Savior!” In Jesus’ name, amen.

A SILENT MOMENT FOR CONFESSING PERSONAL SINS

GOD’S ASSURANCE THAT WE ARE PARDONED

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8-9

SCRIPTURE RELATIVE TO TODAY’S SERMON Leviticus 19:15-18

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

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD OF GOD James 2:8-13 *Mercy Triumphs* Intern Derrick Leitão

James 2.8-13 Mercy Triumphs

Partiality Opposes the Royal Law, v. 8-11

- I. After considering our faith in verses 1-7, he shifts to the law given to us by our King (Ex. 20; Matt. 5-7).
 - A. In verse 8, James is beginning his argument to prove that they are transgressors of the Royal Law.
 - 1. He presents to them God’s standards, not human standards of the law, catching them in their hypocrisy much like the Pharisees (and Peter, Gal. 2.11-14)!
 - a) We often dismiss partiality in the body of Christ as something small, but it is actually a sin.
- II. He binds them to the true standard of God’s law and accuses them of transgression.
 - A. The entire law is interconnected. If we broke one commandment; we broke them all. Boasting in the law is faulty and it misses the point of Christianity altogether.
 - 1. Partiality is the same as murder (Matt. 5.22; Gal. 5.20) as it attempts to cut a person off from a life of fellowship, which we have in Christ.
 - 2. They are, not only partial toward their neighbor, but also partial toward God’s law. This is binding on us all.
 - a) Hypocrisy and self-deception go hand in hand.
 - (1) They thought of themselves too highly and he is calling them to come down to the level of the “poor-man” (Rom. 12.16).

Partiality Opposes the Liberty of Mercy, v. 12-13

- I. Favoritism toward someone because of social rank or status puts us in the position of a judge. But we are to speak and act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty.
 - A. The law of liberty, fulfilled in Christ, liberates us to love God and neighbor.
 - 1. To be judged in the coming judgment under the law of liberty, not condemnation, and is to recognize that your judgment will be based on our Christian liberty and what we have been liberated to do (see the following section). In other words, you won’t be judged as you should for Christ’s sake.
 - B. If we have not shown mercy, there will be no mercy (Matt. 5.7; 6.15; Luke 10.37).

1. We are liberated to help liberate others and show mercy (Matt. 7.12).

a) Let us not waste our liberty on ourselves. We are no longer under the law as to be condemned by it but under the law of Christ (1 Cor. 9.21; Gal. 6.1-2).

II. The main point of this passage (and the entire letter) is found in these four words, “Mercy triumphs over judgment.” We are those who have been liberated *in order* to show mercy (Matt. 6.14; Matt. 5.7; 9.13; 9.27; 12.7; 15.22; 17.15; 18.33; 23.23. Luke 1; Matt. 18.21-35).

A. Paul calls his own ministry a ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5.11-21), though with warnings always attached. As Christians, we ought to err on the side of mercy.

1. Be merciful as you have received mercy (Matt. 10.8; 18.33; Rev. 21.6; Luke 6.36). This is what the Pharisees ignored (Matt. 23.23).

III. Application. Why are we to be people of mercy? Because we are people of the gospel, which is a gospel of mercy. How can we not be merciful in light of the mercy God has shown us in Christ Jesus?

A. Or are we to treat others as the unforgiving servant finding reasons to “choke out” our brothers (Matt. 18.21-35) or looking for distinctions in the body of Christ.

1. We can claim to be learned in the things of God and never have learned mercy (Matt. 9.13). Christ calls us to display the character of God as children of God who know God’s mercy through the gospel of God.

a) Sitting at the table with Jesus is where we find true and lasting mercy that will triumph in the day of judgment.

CLOSING PRAYER

DOXOLOGY

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

Sunday Evening Sermon: Pastor La Belle
“The Walk of Faith, Lesson 1”

Prayer Meeting – Wednesday, May 13th, 6p.m.

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

Birthdays this week:

18th April Davison
22nd Eliza Johnson
23rd Phoebe Hoffrage

Anniversaries:

19th Bob & Deb Brunton

March 2020 Giving Statement

Total March Giving	\$16,536.00
March Giving Weekly Average	\$ 4,134.00
Weekly Average Giving to Date	\$ 3,970.48
Budget – Weekly Average Needed	\$ 4,553.88

The missionaries for this month – Dr. Jim and Jenny Knox, Mbale, Uganda

Bulletin announcements should be submitted to Elly Mead by 12 noon on Wednesdays. Please e-mail to pcccsecretary@gmail.com.