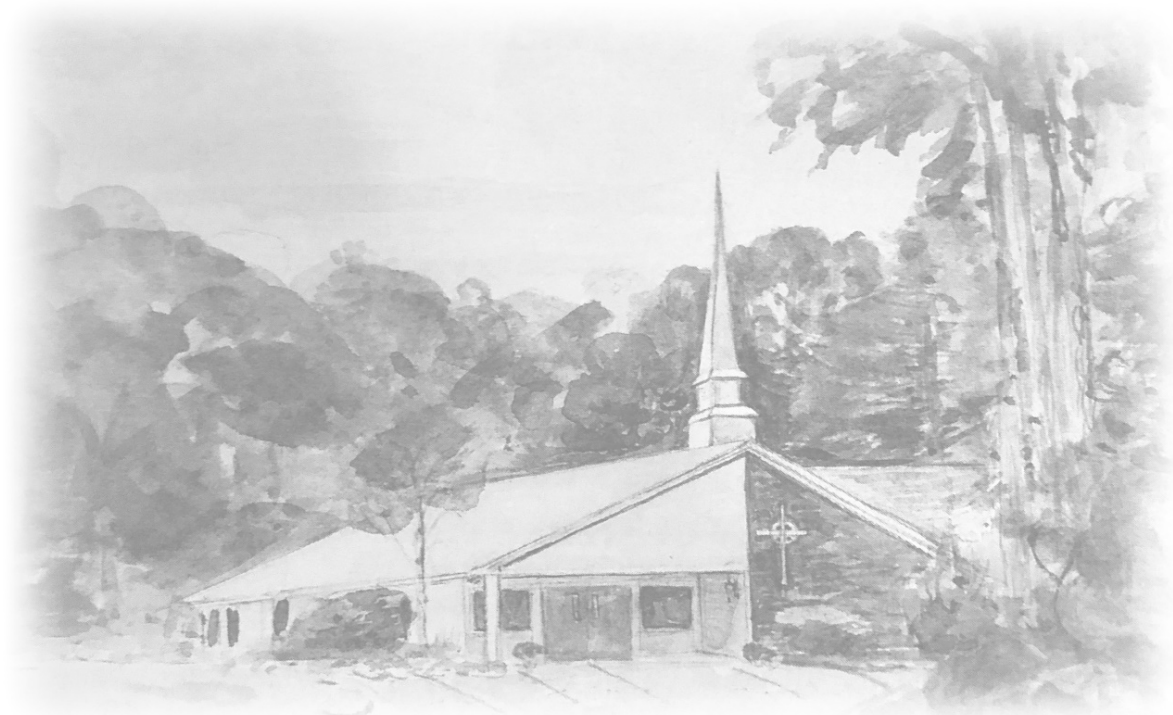


Presbyterian Church of Cape Cod



“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 24, 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 100

A HYMN OF PRAISE

Hymn 163 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

THE CONFESSION OF OUR FAITH IN GOD

Heidelberg Catechism 1

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own but belong body and soul in life and in death to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood and has delivered me from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven. In fact all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ by his Holy Spirit also assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

THE CONFESSION OF OUR SINS TO GOD

Lord God, we thank you from the depths of our hearts for your wondrous grace and love to us in Christ. You have proven your faithfulness to us in the death and resurrection of your only Son and have promised us that you will not withhold any good thing from us. You are our sun and shield and we should love to dwell in your presence more than anything else on earth. Yet we confess that we are full of sin and cannot walk uprightly. We are quick to grasp whatever blessings we can for ourselves and reluctant to trust in your perfect will. We scheme endlessly and impatiently to establish our own kingdoms and fail repeatedly to submit to your wisdom, power and holy will. We have deceived and manipulated others to get our way. Help us to repent of these sins and make us willing to make restitution. Spirit of the living God, you indwell us and always have your way with us. Help us to find our peace and refuge in God's protection, so that we stop trying so hard to protect ourselves. May we find our true

blessing in him, so that we can stop our restless and sinful attempts to grasp blessings for ourselves. Let us rejoice at the end of each day that you have done all things well and have not withheld from us one thing that we needed. Please give us the sweet grace of repentance so we can know your forgiveness and give us the courage of confession and restitution since we have been so lavishly loved by our Savior. Thank you for the weakness that keeps us near the cross, marveling at your rich and overwhelming grace to broken sinners. In Christ’s name we pray, amen.

**A SILENT MOMENT FOR CONFESSING
PERSONAL SINS**

GOD’S ASSURANCE THAT WE ARE PARDONED

I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake and I will not remember your sins. Isaiah 43:25

A PSALM OF RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

Psalm 103A - Bless the Lord, My Soul (Stanzas 1 & 3)

SCRIPTURE RELATIVE TO TODAY’S SERMON

Psalm 42: 1-5; 43: 3-5 Pew Bible Pg. 595

PASTORAL PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION

Followed by the Lord’s Prayer (“Debts”)

OUR OFFERING AND DOXOLOGY TO GOD

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. *Old Hundreth L.M. (587)*

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD OF GOD

Psalm 84 Pew Bible Pg. 626

The Longings of an Exile for the Courts of the Lord

Pastor James A. La Belle

OUTLINE

Ps 84—The Longings of an Exile for the Courts of the Lord

An earnest longing, vv.1-2

- I. What was it about the courts of the Lord that so captured David’s affections? It was the Lord Himself. David’s heart ached for communion with God.
 - A. Of course, God was with David in exile, Heb 13.5; Ps 23.4-5
 - B. But a visit of God to our souls in exile is not the same as a visit with God in His own house, Ps 87.2-3
 - 1. That’s why the Scriptures are full of the Lord’s calling His people to public worship, Ps 100
 - 2. And this is why David pines for God, because nothing is more satisfying to a child of God than public worship where our souls commune and fellowship with the God of all grace.
- II. Does this Psalm mean more to you now than it did 3 months ago?
 - A. How did you read this Psalm when you enjoyed weekly public worship?
 - B. Why do you think God closed the doors of His house to us?
 - C. What should we learn from our time in exile?

A passionate eulogy, vv.3-7

- I. David eulogized the birds who enjoyed the privilege of nesting in the neighborhood of God’s sanctuary.

- A. What an adorable and holy jealousy this was! Would you change places with the birds of the sanctuary if you could?
- II. David eulogized the ministering priests and Levites who daily labored in the house of God.
 - A. David would've gladly traded places with them! Do you envy the priests who daily handled the means of grace and beheld the face of Jesus in them?
- III. David even eulogized the men who were traveling to the house of God for the annual feasts.
 - A. The exiled and hunted David would've loved to have been a pilgrim on the road to God's house!
- IV. Whom do you envy? If you found yourself cut off from worship and could trade places with anyone, who would it be? How has your exile affected your heart's desires?

A fervent prayer, vv.8-12

- I. David prays that God would look on His Christ, who is the church's shield and the Father's anointed.
 - A. It's a prayer that the Lord would restore us to His house and bless us with every spiritual blessing, only for the sake of Christ, who gave Himself for us that we might know communion with God.
 - B. It's a prayer for all times; but it's a prayer that exiles know best.
- II. David backs his fervent prayer to be restored to God's house with 5 reasons, each of which highlights why he pined for the house of God, why no other place would do, why his soul longed for worship, and why he was lovesick for communion with God.
- III. This psalm is a psalm of extreme passion and love for the God of our salvation. It's a soul in love with God crying out for the manifestation of God's love.
 - A. What was it that made David feel this way? What was it that drew out these fiery affections? It was exile.
 - B. This begs several questions: what do you think of public worship now? What's in a Lord's Day for you? Did you find your heart pining for God?
 - 1. Then bless God for the work of the pandemic on your heart; and bless God for the isolation that sharpened your desires for Him and for His house.
 - 2. Humble yourselves that you ever thought less of a Lord's Day than you do now and pray that your ardent love for His presence may never abate.
 - C. And while we journey on in this life, grateful for public worship, let us pine for the worship of heaven, when our hearts will at last pine no more as we behold the face of Christ in glory, Rev 21.1-4

RESPONDING IN PRAISE TO GOD'S WORDS

Psalm 48A – Great is the Lord Our God

BENEDICTION

HIS CONGREGATION'S RESPONSE

Now blessed be the Lord our God, the God of Israel, for he alone does wondrous works in glory that excel. And blessed be his glorious name to all eternity. The whole earth let his glory fill. Amen, so let it be. - McKee CM

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

Sunday Evening Sermon: Derrick Leitão
“Philippians 1:18-21 The Assurance and Honor of Christ”

Prayer Meeting – Wednesday, May 13th, 6:30pm

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

Deb Brunton is requesting that anyone who has taken home a vase from the church now please bring them back to church. We are missing quite a few at this point. The vases can be left outside the doors during the week. Also, if anyone would like to designate flowers for a remembrance, such as an anniversary or birthday or in honor of someone, they can contact Deb (cell 508-419-6309) and she would be happy to do so!

Birthdays this week:

May 26th Aly Marcel
May 26th Scott Greiner
May 27th Timothy Brunton

Anniversaries:

May 24th Barry & Tara Johnson
May 25th David & Lorraine Klaassen
May 26th William & Natalie Peters

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.