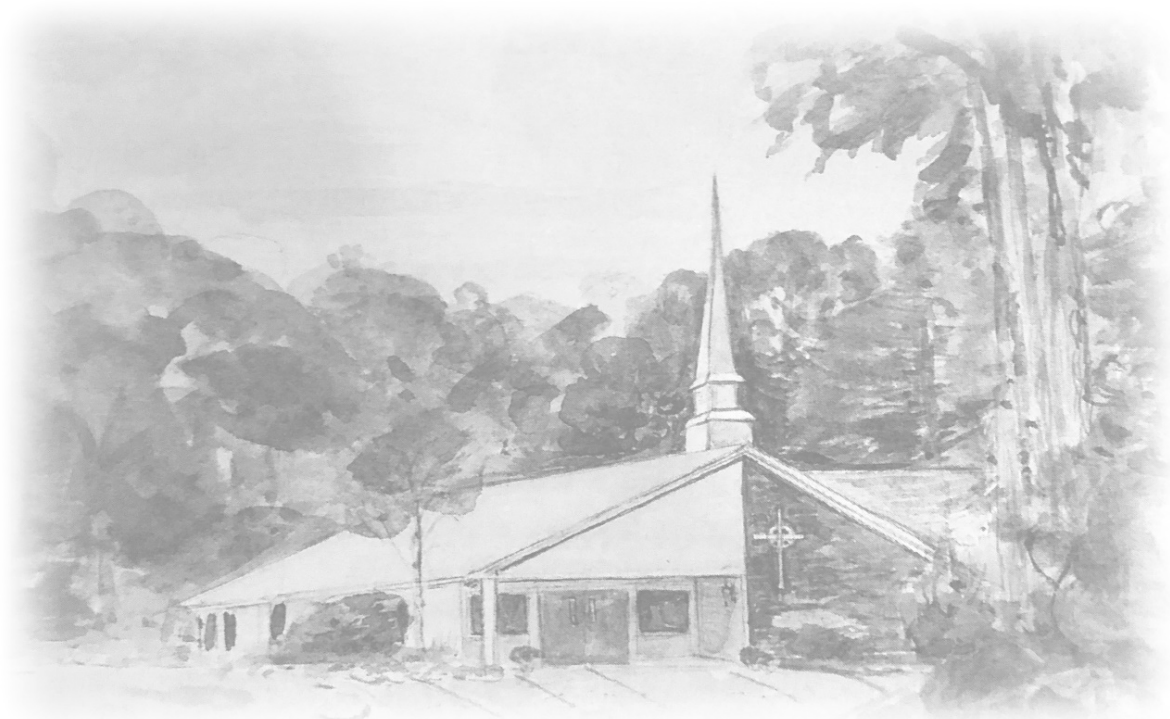


Presbyterian Church of Cape Cod



“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 3, 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 9:11-20

A PRAYER OF INVOCATION

THE CONFESSION OF OUR FAITH IN GOD

Q. Which is the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment is, Thou shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Q. What are the duties required in the ninth commandment?

A. The duties required in the ninth commandment are the preserving and promoting of truth between man and man and the good name of our neighbor as well as our own. Appearing and standing for the truth and from the heart, sincerely, freely, clearly and fully speaking the truth and only the truth in matters of judgment and justice and in all other things whatsoever. A charitable esteem of our neighbors loving, desiring and rejoicing in their good name and sorrowing for and covering of their infirmities. Freely acknowledging of their gifts and graces, defending their innocence and a ready receiving of a good report and unwillingness to admit of an evil report concerning them. Discouraging tale-bearers, flatterers and slanderers. Love and care of our own good name and defending it when need requireth. Keeping of lawful promises, studying and practicing of whatsoever things are true, honest, lovely and of good report.

THE CONFESSION OF OUR SINS TO GOD

Great rescuing God, we are weak sinners who find it easy to move toward people who make us feel good about ourselves, comfortable and important. We continually show favoritism in our hearts and often with our words and actions. We hate others sometimes for no good reason and we do evil to them damaging their reputations with gossip and

rejoicing when bad things happen to them. We know we should love even those who do evil to us but our sinful hearts rise up and we seek justice by doing them damage in return. Some of us have hurt others by lashing out while others exact vengeance by cold, deadly withdrawal. All of us have hated, gossiped and slandered, rehearsing the downfall of our enemies with relish. Father, forgive us. Deliver us from ourselves. We are weary of our sinful depravity.

Holy Spirit, remind us often that all our sin is paid for—past, present and future. May this truth give us courage to see our hearts clearly, to confess our sin readily, to repent quickly and to try hard to love those who sin against us. Restrain our tongues and bodies and keep us from trying to deliver ourselves. Give us patience to be imperfect and to allow others to be imperfect as we wait for your work in your time. Give us faith to trust that you are the holy Judge who will carry out perfect vengeance and perfect forgiveness according to your perfect will. Thank you that the day will come when we will see our glorious Redeemer face to face and be like him forever. Amen.

**A SILENT MOMENT FOR CONFESSING
PERSONAL SINS**

GOD’S ASSURANCE THAT WE ARE PARDONED

For Christ has entered not into holy places made with hands which are copies of the true things but into heaven itself now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. Hebrews 9:24-28

SCRIPTURE RELATIVE TO TODAY’S SERMON
Exodus 23:1-9

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

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD OF GOD
James 2:1-7
The Gospel of No Partiality
Intern Derrick Leitão

OUTLINE

James 2.1-7 The Gospel of No Partiality

Partiality Opposes the Gospel, v. 1-4
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- I. What does faith in the Lord Jesus Christ look like in practice?
 - A. Partiality is a sign of favoritism toward someone based on outward or physical circumstances contrary to the teachings of Jesus (Matt. 10.27-28).
 - 1. Jesus showed no partiality (John 19.11; Luke 6.35-36) toward sinners, lepers, the sick, the dead, the unclean & the noble (Matt. 9.13; 18-34; 8.1-13; John 11.38-44) because he knew the heart (John 2.24-25).

- B. By being partial, have we not made distinctions, discriminating and dividing the body of Christ?
 - 1. One hand washes the other ??? What if the other hand can't wash back? John 13.1-20
- C. Does the "Christian work ethic" always lead to success? Matt. 25.14-29??? This may lead us to think evil thoughts of those in need.
 - 1. Thinking this way may be symptomatic of a person elevating themselves to become like God making distinctions among the body and making themselves out to be judges with evil thoughts. Matt. 6.5; 1 Cor. 5.5
 - a) Is this how the Lord Jesus deliberated before he saved us? Matt. 9.13 It opposes the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Partiality Oppresses the Heirs of the Kingdom, v. 5-6

- I. He references the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5.3; Luke 6.20).
 - A. He is not saying that we should mistreat the rich and favor the poor, but the kingdom of heaven is for the needy.
 - 1. The poor are those who see their need and who are not satisfied with the riches of this world.
 - a) If we are partial toward anyone in the church, we are dishonoring a child of God.
 - (1) We are oppressing that person by withholding fellowship, thinking like the world.
- II. Their circumstances may not be the same as ours, but the principle still remains.
 - A. We are thinking like the unbelieving world when we make these sorts of judgments (Matt. 10.16-17; Gal. 3.28).
 - 1. Whenever we withhold love that is due to another in the church, we are siding with the world and saying it is ok to oppress God's people. Which one of us is worthy? 1 Cor. 12-13. Partiality oppresses and it shows neither love nor mercy.

Partiality Dishonors the Name of Jesus, v. 7

- I. Since they unite themselves with oppressors, they become oppressors themselves, blaspheming the name of Jesus.
 - A. This was the common treatment of Christians during that time, since the rich were able to persecute at a much higher level.
 - 1. This is a call to show no partiality and favoritism toward anyone who possesses any sort of advantage over another. Consider James 1.11.
- II. Application.
 - A. What if God showed partiality toward us when he called us? What if he truly held each one of our sins against us? Matt. 7.1-6
 - B. How have we broken up or divided the church in our thoughts? How often do we think, "who does he think he is?" We would be placing ourselves on the throne as judges of souls and gossips wanting to be worshiped.
 - 1. What is proper attire? What if someone walked into our assembly who hasn't showered in days or weeks because they couldn't? What if someone walked into our assembly who was rich according to the world? Would we have thoughts of disgust or distaste which leads to discrimination and separation?
 - a) How well do we do with diversity? Name the

category. What if the *type* of person that you do not like, walks in? Would you receive them?

- c. Consider who Christ called into fellowship with him.
 - 1. Consider when Christ called us, what mess we were in. Consider ourselves now, what mess we are in now. Yet, he promises to cleanse us.
 - a) Consider the gospel call is for both rich and poor, slave and free, whoever would receive it with joy. Can we accept and then receive the truth that the body of Christ is one and catholic and yet it is diverse? Or are we making ourselves to be judges with evil thoughts?

CLOSING PRAYER

DOXOLOGY

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

Sunday Evening Sermon: Pastor LaBelle
Lesson 14 – The Life of Faith

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

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

Birthdays this week:

May 7th - John Davis

May 8th - David Klaassen

May 9th - Ben VanDine

Anniversaries

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.