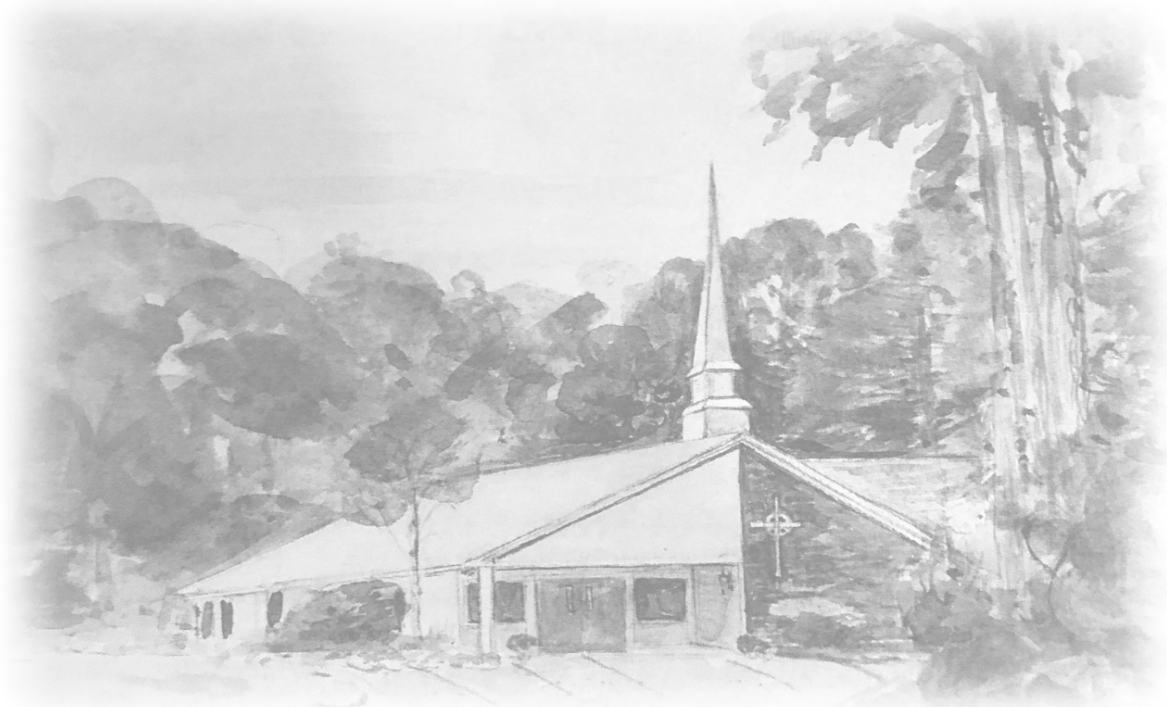


Presbyterian Church of Cape Cod



“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 31, 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 147:1-6

A HYMN OF PRAISE

Hymn 418 - Arise, O God

A PRAYER OF INVOCATION

THE CONFESSION OF OUR FAITH IN GOD

Westminster Confession of Faith 16.2

These good works done in obedience to God's commandments are the fruits and evidences of a true and lively faith and by them believers manifest their thankfulness, strengthen their assurance, edify their brethren, adorn the profession of the gospel, stop the mouths of the adversaries and glorify God, whose workmanship they are, created in Christ Jesus thereunto that having their fruit unto holiness, they may have the end, eternal life.

A HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn 525 - Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

THE CONFESSION OF OUR SINS TO GOD

Lord God Almighty you graciously and generously fill our lives with many wonderful things. You bless us with friends, family and wealth that most people in this world can't even imagine. We confess today that we are prone to love your good gifts far more than we love you. We covet and long for things that you haven't given us or we are filled with fearful anxiety if we think that you might take away the things or people that we have come to love so much. Father, thank you for your deep and endless mercy to rebels like us. We have trampled on the blood of your precious and only Son time and time again. We know that we deserve your wrath and yet when we approach you we find grace and mercy instead. Father, we cannot fathom the cost to your heart of pouring out so much anger on your perfect Son. Father, we are so grateful that you were

willing to suffer so much for us. Holy Spirit, help us to see our many idols and incline our stubborn hearts to repent. Open our blind eyes to see the Lamb of God lifted up for us so that his redeeming blood could cleanse us from all our self-worship. Draw our eyes to the great throne room in heaven, where he dwells in radiant glory, crowned with honor and interceding for those united to him. Thank you for the certain hope that one day we will join with the thousands upon thousands of the redeemed, falling down before the throne and saying together, worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive blessing and honor and glory forever. Amen.

**A SILENT MOMENT FOR CONFESSING
PERSONAL SINS**

GOD’S ASSURANCE THAT WE ARE PARDONED

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Romans 3:21-26

A HYMN OF RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

Hymn 533 – Have Thy Own Way, Lord!

SCRIPTURE RELATIVE TO TODAY’S SERMON

Genesis 22: 1-18 Pew Bible Pg. 20

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)*

PREPARING WITH PRAISE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Hymn 529 – Lead Me, Lord, Lead Me in Thy Righteousness

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD OF GOD

James 2:14-26 Pew Bible Pg. 1289

The Vindication of the Saints

Intern Derrick Leitão

OUTLINE

James 2.14-26 The Vindication of the Saints

Saving Faith is not just in Words and Knowledge, v. 14-19
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- I. Faith without works is a faith that never bore the fruits and evidences of true faith.
 - A. A faith that saves is a faith that works. Faith will express itself outwardly. It’s not just inward transformation.
- II. He exposes their sin of partiality in verses 1-13 and now addresses the issue of their faith working itself out in practice.
 - A. He is judging the quality of their faith based on their actions toward their poor brother.
 - 1. So, first, true saving faith is **not** expressed just in “saying, speaking or blessing” alone. Faith works

through love (Gal. 5.6), if not, it is dead and produces nothing.

a) There is assurance of possessing true faith by what we **do** in response to God's word implanted in us. Notice, he has been describing one who is only a hearer (1.22-25) and only a speaker as Jesus did (Matt. 7.21; 12.50).

2. Secondly, faith is **not** just in knowing things about God, though it is necessary (Deut. 6.4).

a) Holding to orthodox beliefs; expressing those beliefs in a pious manner; eloquently blessing others is not a demonstration of true faith if it does not go beyond this. It proves to be false faith when we show no mercy toward the hungry and naked (Isa. 58).

Saving Faith is a Faith that Believes and Acts, v. 20-26

III. He gives two ironic examples of true faith (Abraham and Rahab), because both of these individuals were known for their mercy and hospitality in receiving God and his people (Gen. 18; Josh. 2).

A. Consider Abraham.

1. He went through a period of testing or trial, as James has been addressing, and his faith was put to the test. Abraham was justified or vindicated as a true believer when he acted (Gen. 15; 22).

2. His faith was completed, made whole, brought to an end or goal; brought to maturity by his works.

a) Consider Eph. 2.8-10.

3. He **believed** God and it was counted as righteousness (Gen. 15.6 completed in Gen. 22). His faith was tested, and he proved to be a true believer. He **trusted** God and acted upon that trust.

4. Just like Jesus' disciples (John 15.14-17) he is called a friend of God.

a) There is a loving fellowship between the two parties (Gen. 18). He received God and his people.

B. Consider Rahab.

1. Her faith was demonstrated in her work of love, mercy and goodness toward God and his people, much like Abraham.

a) Good works flow out of genuine faith, resting and trusting in him.

(1) So, trust and act. "Take a leap of faith."

IV. Application.

A. What is dead faith?

1. Dead faith is in lip service alone (John 14.15). Do we not trust that he will provide the means and the heart of faith to obey?

2. Dead faith is in mental appreciation alone.

B. What is true faith? True faith believes God.

1. And the faith that believes God, trusts God and it is the faith that acts, like Abraham, trusting God will provide the good work to do.

a) And true faith will have hands and legs in showing mercy and love.

C. James gives us the works of individuals who were going through a trying circumstance. Consider their response. Consider the difference between Judas and Peter. Peter had nowhere to run to but to Christ.

1. Our faith will be tested when the rubber meets the road. For the most part our faith is not tested when all is going well.

a) Consider Jesus Christ who was not only the model of true faith, but he is also the forerunner, founder and perfecter of our faith, who put away sin by the sacrifice of his flesh (Heb. 6.20; 12.2; 9.26) for mercy's sake, to set apart saints who would be zealous for good works (Titus 2.14). We shouldn't ask how much works? But how true are our works?

RESPONDING IN PRAISE TO GOD'S WORD
Hymn 246 – Though Troubles Assail Us (Stanzas 1 & 4)

OUR LORD’S 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: **The Walk of Faith, Lesson 2**
Pastor James La Belle

Prayer Meeting – Wednesday, June 3rd, 6:00pm
<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:

June 2nd Jim Hobbs
June 2nd James LaBelle

Anniversaries:

June 4th Tim & Desirée Jones

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.