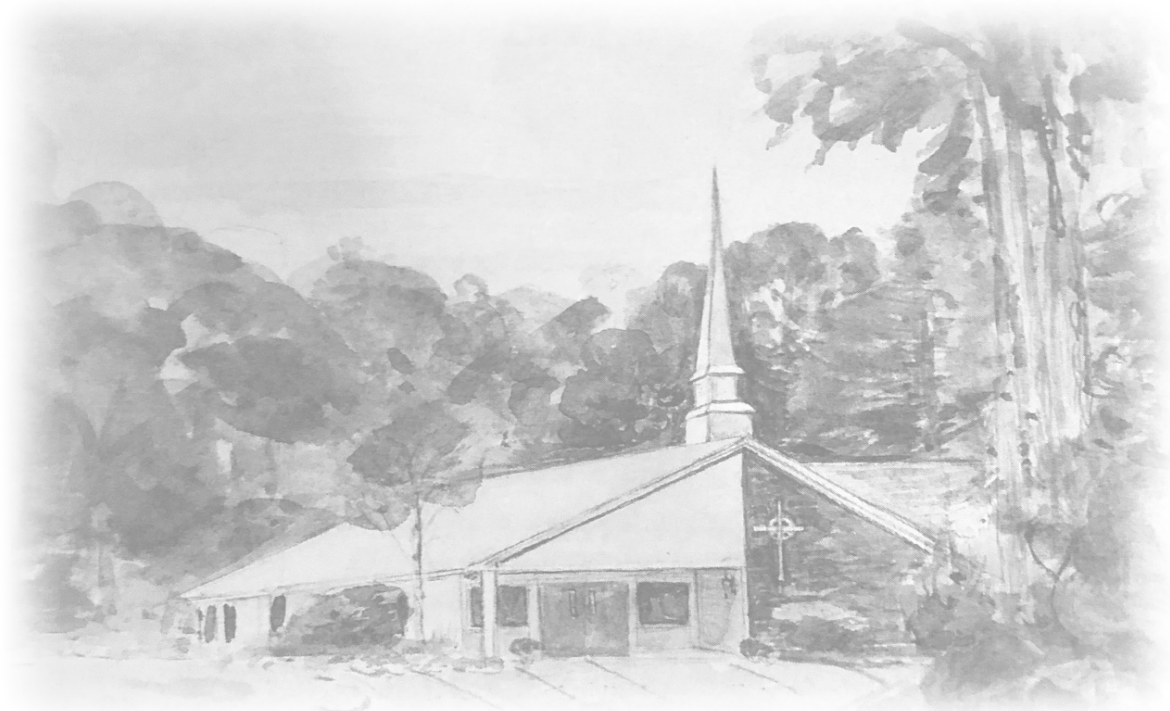


Presbyterian Church of Cape Cod



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

The Lord's Day

August 16, 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

Isaiah 66:1-2

A HYMN OF PRAISE

Hymn 214 - Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

A PRAYER OF INVOCATION

THE CONFESSION OF OUR FAITH IN GOD

Belgic Confession, Article 13, Page 859 in Hymnal,
read responsively

A PSALM OF RESPONSE

Psalm 77 – I Cried Aloud to God for Help (Stanzas 1-5)

THE CONFESSION OF OUR SINS TO GOD

Heavenly Father, we confess before you the weakness of our grip on you. In good times we declare with assurance that in Jesus we have a sympathetic High Priest and that you will never leave us nor forsake us. Yet when trials and troubles come, we quickly feel abandoned and alone, convinced that you have forgotten us. Instead of drawing near to the throne of grace, full of confidence in your love for us, our hearts are consumed with frustration and fear. Instead of reveling in our assurance in Christ, we lash out at those closest to us in anger or withdraw within ourselves to sulk and hide, running to the idols that promise us escape or immediate relief from our pain. We quickly forget that our advocate has ascended into heaven in triumph and intercedes for us there. Father forgive us. Holy Spirit, help us to cling to Christ. Show us more clearly our eternal High Priest and advocate above. Help us to ponder more deeply his love for us when we are tempted to doubt it and to stir one another up to love and good deeds. Intercede for us in our weakness, taking our incoherent prayers and presenting them perfectly before the Father. Strengthen us in growing holiness as you continue in us the good work that you have already begun so that on the last day we might receive what you have promised us in Christ along with all of the saints. In Jesus'

name, amen.

A SILENT MOMENT FOR CONFESSING PERSONAL SINS

GOD'S ASSURANCE THAT WE ARE PARDONED

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:14–16

A HYMN OF RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

Hymn 245 – Great is Thy Faithfulness (Stanzas 1 & 3)

SCRIPTURE RELATIVE TO TODAY'S SERMON

2 Timothy 4:9-18

Pew Bible Pg. 1269

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

Psalm 33 – With Joy Let Us Sing to the Lord (Stanzas 4 & 5)

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD OF GOD

Job 9:22-24

Pew Bible Pg. 536

On the Just and the Unjust Alike,

God Sends Troubles

Pastor James A. La Belle

OUTLINE

Job 9.22-24—On the just and the unjust alike, God sends troubles

God afflicts both the righteous & the wicked alike, v.22

- I. It's all one. "I've said it before and I'll say it again."
 - A. This is the great axiom upon which Job builds all his arguments, the Royal Fort in which he takes refuge against all their accusations: that God is no respecter of persons when it comes to temporal afflictions, but sends them on the just and unjust alike.
 - B. Job's not saying there's no difference in God's eyes between the righteous and the wicked (cp. Gen 18.25).
 - C. Instead, his point is that God's temporal afflictions are common to all men, regardless of their standing before Him, Job 14.1-2; cf. 2Sam 11.25—which is why one's temporal condition can't serve as a litmus test for one's spiritual condition.

Two illustrations, vv.23-24

- I. v.23, the righteous are so far from being spared temporal afflictions that God stands by and laughs at their calamity. —Can that be right!?
 - A. God *doesn't ever laugh* at the afflictions of His people as if He found it funny or got joy out of watching them suffer, Isa 63.9; Hos 11.8-9
 1. God's heart *breaks* over our pain. His heart *recoils within Him* to take the rod to us. His heart *grows warm and tender* at the sight of our suffering and the sound of our cries.
 2. How can the God whose heart bled out on the cross to deliver us from suffering (Isa 53.5) ever laugh at our suffering!?
 - B. Then what does Job mean? It helps to remember that Job's in a real struggle of faith and that he's having a hard time finding a foothold for his faith in God's goodness amidst all his pain.
 1. The "laughing" of which Job speaks is the apparent passivity of a God whom Job knows to have covenanted with him to be his God, and to do him good as a fruit of that covenant.
 2. Job's not accusing God of enjoying our suffering. He's simply at a loss how to reconcile God's painful providences with his faith in God's goodness and justice.
- II. v.24, the wicked are so far from being made the sure marks

of temporal afflictions that God gives them the earth, cf. Ps73

The Conclusion, v.24

- I. No one else has the sovereignty to order and dispose the things of this world as He pleases, but God. And therefore to Him belongs the glory and mystery of His governance of all things temporal.

Observations for Application

- I. “In His sovereignty God treats all men alike in temporal things.”
- A. While both the people of God and the enemies of God may fall under the same afflictions, they’re not really being treated the same way, Ps 56.9; Jer 32.40
1. Towards His enemies the Lord acts in wrath and anger; but towards His people He acts in mercy and grace. While His hand may move against all men in the same way, His meaning and motive behind it is not at all the same because His heart is not the same towards them.
- B. The trials of the saints are the trying of the saints. They’re occasions to exercise our graces and give proof what sort of people we are, Eph 6.10-18
1. So that if God ever appears to stand idly by, let’s understand that He’s trying us because He wants to grow us, 1Tim 1.18
- C. Whenever the Lord afflicts you, His heart is set on doing you good by it, Heb 12.10
1. His motive is to make you a greater partaker in His holiness *in order that* you might enjoy a greater measure of His fellowship.
 2. So whenever afflictions become necessary to that end, know that there’s a “divine reluctance” in His heart, Lam 3.33. His “whole heart isn’t in it;” which means, He doesn’t enjoy it.
 3. Therefore, in all your sufferings, cast yourself onto the lap of Jer 32.41, trusting that there must be some good reason for you to go through that suffering.
- D. However it may appear that God sometimes stands idly by and just watches us suffer, remember that He’s *always* with us in our suffering.
1. Whether by careful oversight (Mal 3.3), unperceived upholding (Dt 33.27), divine intercession (Heb 7.25), or walled protection (Isa 26.1), your God *is* by your side, doing you good. That’s His promise and that’s His work, Jer 29.11
 2. May God therefore enable you to trust His heart when you cannot see His hand, Jn 13.7; Ps 56.9

RESPONDING IN PRAISE TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn 509 – Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me?

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.

Afternoon Study – The Walk of Faith, Lesson 9:
The Fuel of Obedience – Pastor La Belle

Prayer Meeting – Wednesday, August 19th, 6:30pm

Birthdays this week:

August 20th Suzanne Neal

2020 Cape Cod Reformed Conference: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Massachusetts quarantine regulations, the Session has sadly and prayerfully decided we need to cancel our 2020 Cape Cod Reformed Conference. There will be information in the bulletin regarding the Conference of 2021 next Spring.

The missionaries for this month – Ben and Heather Hopp, Haiti

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