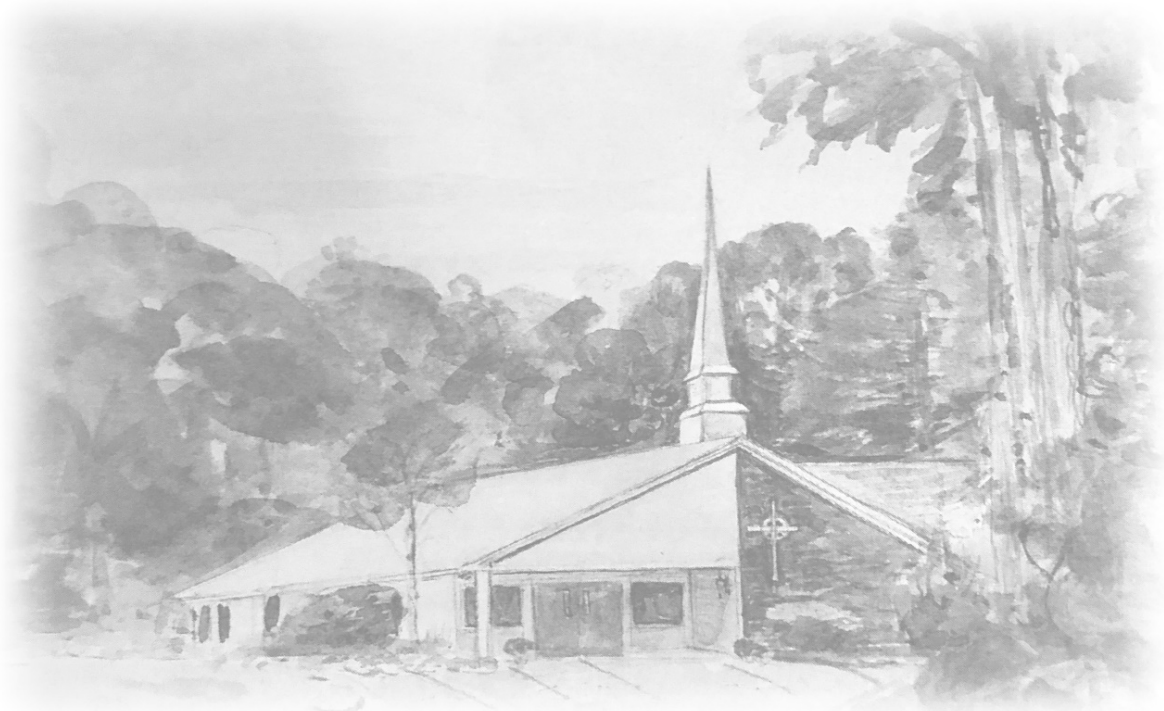


Presbyterian Church of Cape Cod



“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 23rd, 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 96:10-13

A PSALM OF PRAISE

Psalm 100A - Shout to the Lord, All Earth

A PRAYER OF INVOCATION

THE CONFESSION OF OUR FAITH IN GOD

The Apostle's Creed, Hymnal Pg. 851

A HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn 213 – Glory Be to God the Father

THE CONFESSION OF OUR SINS TO GOD

Loving heavenly Father, yours is surpassing greatness, unspeakable goodness and superabundant grace. Your steadfast love greets us each morning and your faithfulness is our constant companion. Your mercies are fresh each day, flowing toward us in your patient perseverance and loving guidance. We thank you for personal mercies, for a measure of health, the comforts of home, food and clothing, for those moments of domestic peace and harmony and for your ongoing protection of ourselves and those whom we love.

Yet we mourn our sin and profound ingratitude to you. We have not put our hope in you and we have not waited patiently for you to act on our behalf. We have trusted and delighted in your creation rather than in you and we have looked to our idols to make us glad, complaining bitterly when they have failed us. We have pressured people with the heavy weight of our needs and expectations and sinned against them when they disappointed us. Father forgive us for our many sins. We do not deny them or excuse them but confess that we have broken your holy law and fallen short of keeping your commands. Holy Spirit, help us to turn away from our sin and cling to the cross. May we hide in the wounds of Jesus and find shelter in his side. Cause us to place all our hopes in the powerful blood of our Savior and his perfect righteousness in our place. When

life is painful and difficult and our souls give way to fear and temptation, root us safely once again on our firm foundation, our only hope in life and in death. Let us know afresh the joy of our salvation. Christ has been faithful for us and so you will always be faithful to us, for you cannot abandon the Son of God to whom we are inseparably joined. Amen.

A SILENT MOMENT FOR CONFESSING PERSONAL SINS

GOD'S ASSURANCE THAT WE ARE PARDONED

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance and endurance produces character and character produces hope and hope does not put us to shame because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Romans 5:1–6

A HYMN OF RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

Hymn 282 – I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

SCRIPTURE RELATIVE TO TODAY'S SERMON

Isaiah 33:17-22

Pew Bible Pg. 755

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 172 – Speak, O Lord

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD OF GOD

James 4:11-12 Pew Bible Pg. 1291

Who Is the Judge and Lawgiver?

Intern Derrick Leitão

OUTLINE

James 4.11-12 Who is the Judge and Lawgiver?

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|-----------------------------|
| Who is Above the Law? v. 11 |
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- I. James begins by saying, "Do not speak against one another," as in do not *slander* one another or speak to one another in a critical way.
 - A. Why? Because it depicts something that is not true, which involves **self-elevation** (Luke 17.7-10).
 1. The law of God is for all man, including ourselves. In Christ it is the law of love and the one who slanders or condemns a brother (behind the back or face to face), is guilty of breaking this law (Matt. 7.1-2; Rom. 11.32). It is hypocrisy.
 - a) We would be self-elevating ourselves to the judgment seat without being given the right. If we are busy judging others, then we are not busy doing God's will.
 - (1) What about 1 Cor. 6.2?
 - (2) What about 1 Cor. 5.9-13? What about "the reviler?" He is the slanderer, the insulter, the faultfinder, passing critical judgment without humility and without doing a self-check. He is the one who sees the speck in his brother's eye without removing the log in his own eye. And he is not seeking to restore anyone to fellowship.
 - (a) Motives are important. Why are we mentioning someone else's struggle with sin, illness or problems in our conversations if it is not for their good? Why are we confronting someone? (James 3.17) Do we have their well-being in mind, while guarding their reputation?

- I. Not only is judging your brother a self-elevation above the law, but it is self-elevation above God, who knows and judges perfectly. We claim to know the heart of man, when we don't.
- A. Throughout the Scriptures, there is a common affirmation that God is the one ultimate judge. Where was man, when God gave Moses the two tablets of stone? Man was on the receiving end of the law.
1. Jesus is the lawgiver (Matt. 5.21ff).
- B. There is a common affirmation in the world that, "Only God can judge me!" It is a true statement (Matt. 10.28).
1. Jesus is the judge (Acts 10.42; 2 Cor. 5.10; Rev. 5.2; John 5.22-23; Matt. 28.18).
- a) We are all sinners and can't escape judgment. We can't stand above the law. We can't stand under the law to be judged by it. Where does that leave us?
- (1) The good news is Jesus, as the just judge, is also able to save from judgment!
- (a) And this ought to lead us to ask ourselves, "Who am I to judge my neighbor?" Where would I be if God was to hold every sin against me? Rom. 8.1. Our sin bearer bore our judgment at Calvary. Instead of judging our brothers, we ought to be reminding them of this truth. Amen.

RESPONDING IN PRAISE TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn 572 – Gloria Patri

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 – Corporate Prayer Meeting

Prayer Meeting – Wednesday, August 26th, 6:30pm

Birthdays this week:

August 24th Deb Brunton

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.