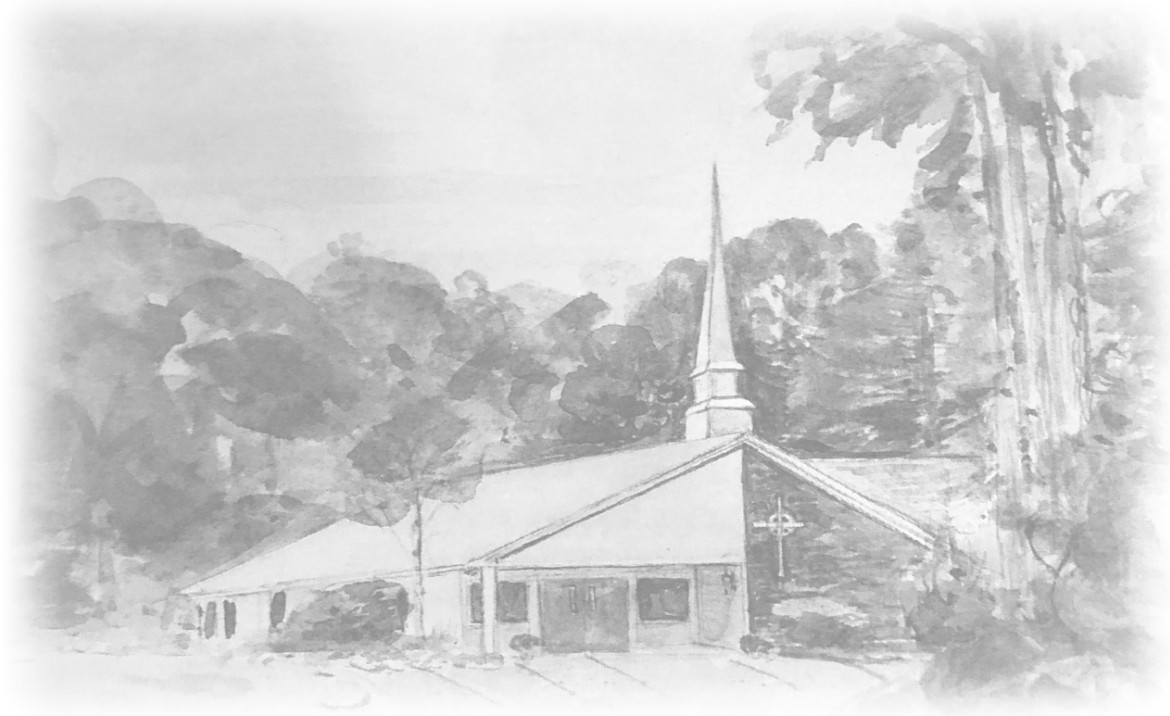


Presbyterian Church of Cape Cod



“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 9, 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 55:1-3a

A HYMN OF PRAISE

Hymn 375 – All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

A PRAYER OF INVOCATION

THE CONFESSION OF OUR FAITH IN GOD

Q. Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?

A. Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born and that in a low condition made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God and the cursed death of the cross. In being buried and continuing under the power of death for a time.

Q. Wherein consisteth Christ's exaltation?

A. Christ's exaltation consisteth in his rising again from the dead on the third day, in ascending up into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father and in coming to judge the world at the last day.

A HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn 380 – Crown Him with Many Crowns

THE CONFESSION OF OUR SINS TO GOD

O God our Savior, we come before you today as foolish sheep who find it our natural inclination to wander far from you. You have set your love upon us, chosen us and saved us but we find it hard to trust you and prefer to turn to our own wisdom and understanding. You lead us in green pastures for your own name's sake but we reject the feast that you lay before us and try frantically to fill ourselves up with things that cannot satisfy. You lead us by still waters to restore our souls yet we recklessly dabble with strong currents of temptation and are easily swept away by torrents of sinful cravings and lust. You call us to straight paths of righteousness but we scorn your warnings, ignore your guidance and rebel against your discipline. You have given us the great privilege of knowing and worshiping our Creator, the one true God but

we prefer to bow before our worthless idols day after day in search of the morsels of comfort or pleasure they offer to us. Father, we stray from you every day and turn to our own ways. Forgive us for our many sins. Holy Spirit, help us to see where the path of blessing lies and give us hearts that are eager to travel that path. While we live in a fallen world with sinful hearts, we will always be prone to wander. Thank you for holding fast to us, for we cannot hold onto you. Give us strong appetites for spiritual food, the Word of God and the body and blood of our precious Savior. Grant us unshakable confidence in the death and life of Jesus until his wounds cleanse our guilt and give us great joy. Make us humble followers instead of prideful leaders so that we can find safety and delight in walking with you. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

A SILENT MOMENT FOR CONFESSING PERSONAL SINS

GOD'S ASSURANCE THAT WE ARE PARDONED

But he was pierced for our transgressions. He was crushed for our iniquities. Upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace and with his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5

A HYMN OF RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

Hymn 431 - And Can It Be That I Should Gain

SCRIPTURE RELATIVE TO TODAY'S SERMON

Isaiah 57:14-19

Pew Bible Pg. 784

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 532 – Be Still, My Soul

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD OF GOD

James 4:7-10

Pew Bible Pg. 1291

God Exalts the Humble

Intern Derrick Leitão

OUTLINE

James 4.7-10 God Exalts the Humble

Go in the Opposite Direction! v. 7-8a

- I. What is submission? It is to place ourselves under the Lordship of God and to dethrone the devil in a Divine resistance! Eph. 4.27; 6.10-20.
- A. This can only be done with his enabling grace (v. 6). He has given us all that we need to resist the devil. Through his Spirit he has given us: truth to combat lies; righteousness to combat wickedness; peace to combat turmoil; faith to combat doubt; salvation to combat sin and death; the Word as a guiding light in a dark world. The devil is just a dog on a leash.
1. He gives a command with a promise as uttered throughout the Old Testament for the sake of covenant renewal. "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you."
- a) How? We draw near by prayer. He will not turn away those who come to him (John 6.35-37). Consider the prodigal son (Luke 15.11-32).
- (1) Application. Are you tempted to doubt, sensuality, lust, materialism, slander, pride? Or have you already fallen to these? It is never too late to draw near to God. He will "run and embrace" you.

Purify Yourselves, v. 8b

- I. But we must repent, inwardly as well as outwardly, come with clean hands and a pure heart (Ps. 2.4).
- A. For we are a kingdom of priests who draw near as ministers of God. We are to check ourselves before coming to the throne of grace.

1. As we approach in prayer, we are to lay it all out, honestly before God, with single devotion and single-mindedness.
 - a) Application. Or are we like the Pharisees who only wash the outside of the cup and not the inside (Matt. 23.25)? The inside of the cup is where the water (of life) is poured into and where we drink from (2 Cor. 7.1).

Grief, Humility and Exaltation, v. 9-10

- I. A true sign of repentance is grief over our own personal sins. The Christian life is a life of joy as this joy comes from God. He is now speaking of a false joy that comes from sinning against God.
 - A. This consists of laughing when there is nothing to laugh about. Enjoying our sin when God hates it. This is speaking of when we don't see the depth of our own depravity and when we don't view sin as God views sin. When was the last time we actually wept over our own personal sins?
 1. The joy that comes from sinning is a false and superficial joy, coming from the wrong place because it is not from God (1 Cor. 5.2).
 - a) It is better to mourn now rather than later. There is blessing and grace for those who mourn (Matt. 5.4). What a joy to be forgiven in Christ! But that joy will not be ours if we tolerate our own personal sin and find joy in it.
 - (1) Application. And what a joy when we will experience sin no more in the presence of Christ! Imagine *no more* doubting, anger, lust, unforgiveness, bitterness! For **he** will do it.
- II. All that he has said so far can be summed up in, "Humble yourselves before the Lord."
 - A. It is to come before God with nothing in our hands to offer him. It is seeing our need of God and our spiritual poverty. It is total submission of our entire lives.
 1. Application. And there is another promise! He not only gives grace to the humble (v. 6) but he also exalts the humble! This does not come from our own efforts to exalt ourselves.

This was displayed in the life, death, resurrection and exaltation of Christ (Phil. 2.6-11) and the pattern that he called us to follow (Matt. 23.12; Luke 14.11; 18.14). But the difference is we are as the tax-collector beating our chest and confessing our sinfulness and our need of mercy and forgiveness (Luke 18.9-14). Amen.

RESPONDING IN PRAISE TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn 531 – Nearer, Still Nearer (Stanzas 2-4)

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.

Afternoon Study – The Walk of Faith, Lesson 8:
Faith at Work on the Field – Pastor La Belle

Prayer Meeting – Wednesday, August 12 8th, 6:30pm

Birthdays this week:

August 11th Melanie Beveridge
August 14th Ethan Barr

Anniversaries:

August 12th Joe & Ellen Marcel
August 14th Thomas & Phoebe Hoffrage

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.