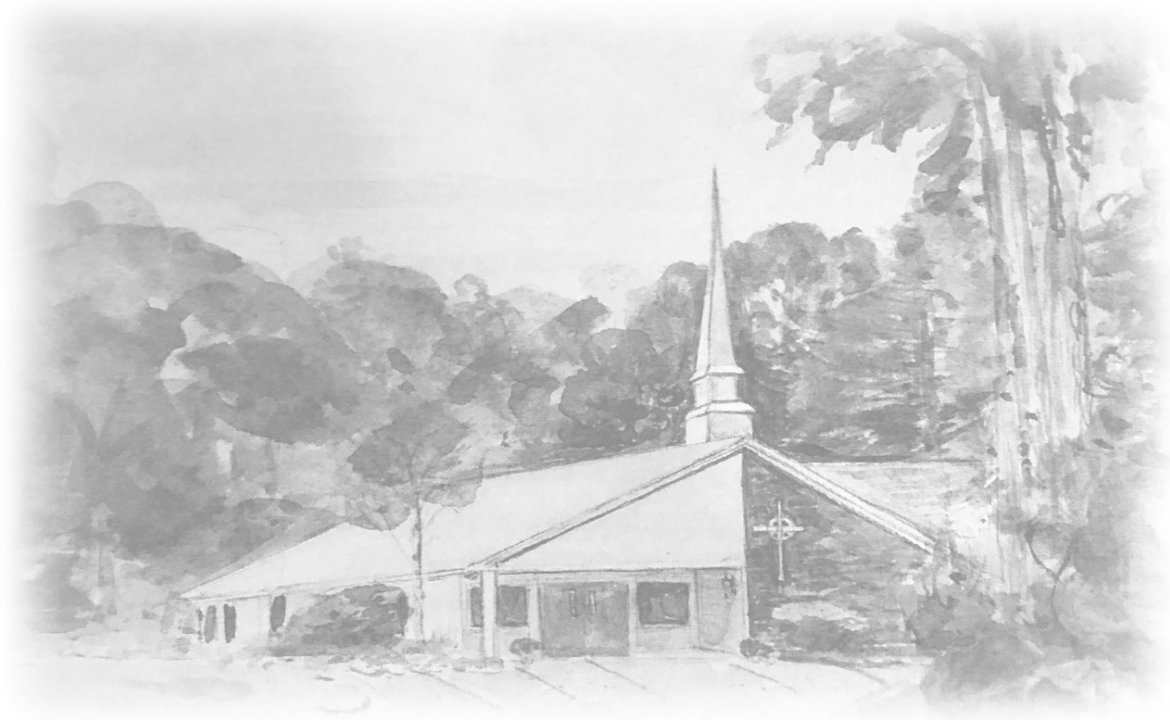


# *Presbyterian Church of Cape Cod*



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

*The Lord's Day*

September 6th, 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/>

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**GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP HIM AS OUR GOD**

*Psalm 66:5-9*

**A PSALM OF PRAISE**

*Psalm 42A - As the Deer Pants for the Waters*

**A PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**THE CONFESSION OF OUR FAITH IN GOD**

Heidelberg Catechism

**Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?**

**A.** That I am not my own but belong body and soul, in life and in death to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood and has delivered me from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven. In fact all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, also assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

**A PSALM OF RESPONSE**

*Psalm 16A – Preserve Me, O My God (Stanzas 1-3)*

**OUR RESPONSIVE READING OF GOD'S LAW**

*The Ten Commandments (see insert)*

**THE CONFESSION OF OUR SINS TO GOD**

Lover of our souls, Like Adam and Eve, we are people who hide from you instead of running toward you when we sin. In the footsteps of our fallen parents, we idolize your good creation and use it to escape from you, fashioning pathetic fig leaves and hiding behind the bushes that you have made. We seek our own glory instead of yours, craving comfort, good reputations, financial gain, safety, significance and love. We want to believe that we are the smartest, the best, the wisest, the strongest and the most spiritual people. We compete with one another in order to feel superior and we trample each other with our pride and determination to succeed. We have never sought you with

our whole hearts, though we daily pursue our own desires with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength. Lord forgive us for our relentless self-love and worship.

Holy Spirit, show us that we are poor, weak and needy. Come quickly to deliver us from our blindness and to rescue us from our pride and shame. Help us to see the many lovers we embrace as we run from you. Convict us of our sin and give us the sweet gifts of repentance and godly sorrow. Show us our sinless Savior who always obeyed his Father, seeking the Father's will and glory above his own comfort and safety. In the garden of Gethsemane he agonized, longing to escape the bitter shame and curse of the death appointed for him. Yet he sought us with his whole heart by living and dying for us, rising triumphantly to claim us for himself and fulfilling his Father's purpose to have a beloved people of his own. Fill our hearts and minds with the reality of Christ's loving pursuit of us so that we learn to love him more each day. Help us to be filled constantly with gratitude to him, to love him more than we love our pathetic idols, to seek him with growing joy, to run to him swiftly when we sin and to have unshakeable confidence in his finished work and his perpetual care for us. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

### **A SILENT MOMENT FOR CONFESSING PERSONAL SINS**

#### **GOD'S ASSURANCE THAT WE ARE PARDONED**

For this reason the Father loves me because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father. John 10:17–18

#### **A HYMN OF RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE**

*Hymn 219 – O Worship the King (Stanzas 1 & 5)*

#### **SCRIPTURE RELATIVE TO TODAY'S SERMON**

Ecclesiastes 7:1-13

Pew Bible Pg. 707

#### **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 Hundred L.M. (587)*

#### **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

Job 9:25-26

Pew Bible Pg. 536

*Where is Your Hope?*

Pastor James A. La Belle

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#### **OUTLINE**

##### *Job 9.25-26—Where's your hope?*

<b>The fleeting nature of all temporal blessings</b>
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- I. None was so blessed as Job, 1.2
  - A. But where was all that now?
  - B. And how suddenly was it all taken away! 1.13-19
- II. Job uses three illustrations to prove the fleeting nature of all our temporal blessings—even for the godly. Therefore, as he said before (vv.22-24), it's impossible to distinguish the wicked from the righteous by their temporal blessings and condition.
- III. How quickly the comfort and security of all our worldly blessings might be lost! Job was the richest man in the East and had a large family and he lost everything and everyone in one day (cp. Rev 18.8, 10).
  - A. This teaches us to not to put any hope in the things of life since, sooner or later, everything must go. Every temporal comfort withers. It's foolish to put our hope for peace and enduring happiness in anything temporal, Ecc 1.14; Lk 12.13-21

B. This teaches us to prepare for change. Prepare your heart now to let all your blessings go by holding them with an open hand, 1Cor 7.29-31

C. This teaches us how transitory time itself is, Eph 5.15-16. Don't live as if you have time to kill. Redeem every moment for eternity.

### The necessity of putting your hope in the Eternal God

- I. The problem with hoping in anything temporal is that it's in constant motion. Today's joy is tomorrow's sorrow. Nothing lasts.
    - A. But the beauty of putting all your hopes in God is that He's eternal
      1. His saving love is everlasting, Jer 31.3
      2. His pardon is forever, Jer 31.34
      3. His covenant favor never ceases, Isa 55.3; Jer 32.40
      4. His keeping grace will never cast us out, Jn 6.37
      5. His promise to come for us will soon be fulfilled, Rev 22.20
  - II. Therefore we must put all our hopes in God, for there is no one and nothing else who can satisfy our hopes. We must hope in God:
    - A. for life's necessities, Ps 23.1; Phil 4.19
    - B. for safety in trial, Ps 34.19
    - C. for a godly spouse, Pr 18.22
    - D. for our children's spiritual welfare, Gen 17.7
    - E. for peace of conscience, Isa 1.18; Eph 2.14; Heb 9.14
    - F. for victory over sin, Rom 8.37
    - G. for blessing from the means of grace, Ps 50.15
    - H. for safe passage to heaven when life ends, Lk 16.22
  - III. See how fleeting all our temporal things are! Broken cisterns. Dry riverbeds. Empty promises.
  - IV. See how permanent, stable, and immovable our God is! The unshifting Rock. The God of the covenant of grace. A strong Tower for refuge. A Shield for our protection.
  - V. Where's *your* hope today?
    - A. Everything in life will ultimately disappoint. Everything in life that you're tempted to hold on to and hope in instead of God will ultimately pass away and leave you alone and helpless.
    - B. God alone is the hope that won't make us ashamed, Rom 5.5
    - C. Therefore pull all your hope from every other confidence, especially yourself, and place it whole and entire on Him, Ps 146.5
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## **RESPONDING IN PRAISE TO GOD'S WORD**

*Psalm 27A – The Lord's My Light*

### **THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*(The inner circles of cups contain wine and the outer circle contains grape juice. Please hold each element until all have been served so that we may partake together.)*

### **DEACON'S OFFERING**

## **RESPONDING IN PRAISE TO GOD'S GRACE & MERCY**

*Hymn 214 – Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

### **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

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

**Afternoon Study** – Philippians 2:5-8 The Mind of YHWH

**Prayer Meeting** – Wednesday, September 9th, 6:30pm

**Women's Fellowship** will meet this Tuesday, September 8th at 6:30 pm in the foyer at church. We will be looking at Chapter 7 'Omnipresent.' There will be no meal at this meeting.

**The Promises Book Club** will resume on Tuesday, September 15th at 7 pm at the church. We will be reading Chapter 8 beginning in the section on faith.

**Birthdays this week:**

11th Zoey Grace Brunton

**The missionaries** for this month – Tony and Kathleen Curto, Ethiopia

**Bulletin announcements** should be submitted to Elly Mead by 12 noon on Wednesdays. Please e-mail to [pcccsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:pcccsecretary@gmail.com).