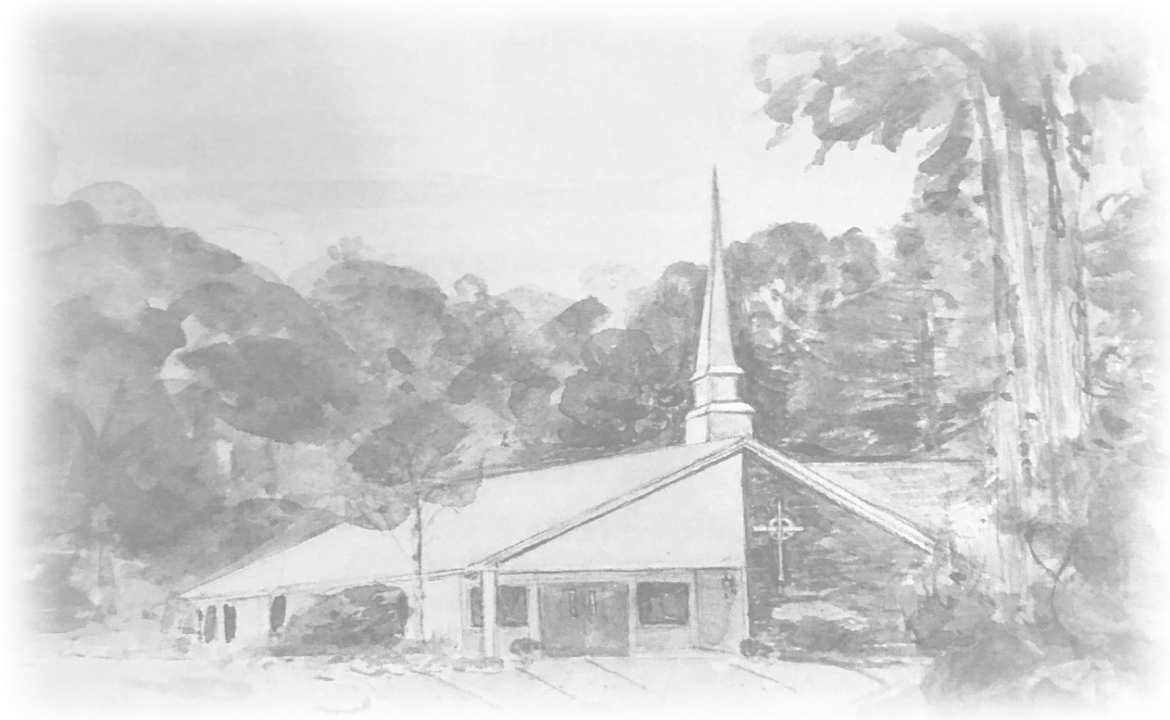


# *Presbyterian Church of Cape Cod*



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

*The Lord's Day*

October 18th, 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 96:1-5*

**A PSALM OF PRAISE**

*Psalm 148B – Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah*

**A PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**THE CONFESSION OF OUR FAITH IN GOD**

Heidelberg Catechism 122

**Q. What does the first petition mean?**

**A.** Hallowed be your name means help us to truly know you, to honor, glorify and praise you for all your works and for all that shines forth from them, your almighty power, wisdom, kindness, justice, mercy and truth. And it means help us to direct all our living, what we think, say and do so that your name will never be blasphemed because of us but always honored and praised.

**A PSALM OF RESPONSE**

*Psalm 104B–My Soul, Bless the Lord! (Stanzas 15 & 16)*

**THE CONFESSION OF OUR SINS TO GOD**

Commander of the universe, you are powerful and majestic and we marvel that you take notice of us. We your creatures have rebelled against your authority yet you set your love on us and rescued us from death and hell. We praise you for choosing to pursue us and for giving us faith to believe in your Son. Holy Spirit, the law of condemnation is written on our hearts and minds and Satan easily enslaves us with it. Show us daily that your mercy is not purchased by our faithfulness but has been bought for us by the obedience of Christ. Strengthen our faith according to your holy will and help our rebellious souls to submit to you. Make us hungry for truth that will strengthen our wavering faith. Help us to bathe our minds in the good news of our oneness with Christ and make that reality a strong and mighty shield that protects us in seasons of weak faith. Let us be grateful when faith is strong, for you alone are the giver and perfecter of faith. Let us not be shaken when our faith is weak and Satan

terrifies our souls, for even Satan must obey you and you hold us safely in your mighty arms. Help us not to despise ourselves and others when we struggle with doubt but to lead each other patiently to the cross of Christ, who lifted the shield of his faith on our behalf and won our salvation and joy. In his strong name and for his glory we ask all these things, Amen.

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

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

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Hebrews 12:1–3

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

*Hymn 460 – Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ (Stanza 3)*

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

John 15:1-11

Pew Bible Pg. 1147

### **PASTORAL PRAYER FOR THE CONGREGATION**

Followed by the Lord's Prayer ("Debts")

### **NEW MEMBERSHIP**

David Belcher

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

*Hymn 405 – I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord (Stanzas 1-4)*

### **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)*

### **PREPARING WITH PRAISE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD**

*Hymn 466 – My Faith Looks Up to Thee (Stanzas 1-3)*

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

Colossians 1:9-14

Pew Bible Pg. 1251

Paul's Prayer for Christian Maturity

Pastor James A. La Belle

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### **OUTLINE**

*Col 1.9-14--Paul's Prayer for Christian Maturity*

#### **Filled With the Knowledge of God's Will, v. 9**

- I. Paul requests that they might be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom & understanding.
  - A. The Colossian believers had been led astray by false teaching because while they gladly received the truth preached to them, they failed to consider its practical impact on their lives and live under its guidance.
  - B. Paul therefore prays that the knowledge they have might be translated by the Spirit into wisdom and understanding for practical living, 2Tim 3.16-17; 4.2
  - C. They didn't need more knowledge than they were already given in the gospel; they only needed to live by it. They needed to go on to maturity.

#### **To Walk in a Manner Worthy of the Lord, vv. 10-14**

- I. The blessed result of a saving knowledge of the will of God is a life regulated by that will. In other words, being filled with the knowledge of God's will is always practical and meant to lead us in a life fully pleasing to the Lord.
  - A. As Christians we're to walk worthily of the Lord because

we're not our own; we were bought by the Lord's own life, Eph 4.1; 1Cor 6.19-20

1. Our lives are therefore to correspond to what Christ is to us as our Master and Lord and to what Christ has done for us in redeeming us, 1Th 2.12
  2. Such a correspondent life involves complete surrender, perfect obedience, and an unwavering love for Christ. If we're aiming short of this then the truth of the gospel has yet to have its due impact upon us and we don't yet know as we ought to know, 1Cor 8.2
- B. Christians are to walk fully pleasing to the Lord. This is to be our great aim, Col 3.17
1. Just think what a help this singleness of mind is to our daily conduct! Living to please man makes us the slaves of men; but living to please Christ as Lord is true freedom, Gal 5.1; Eph 6.6; Col 3.23; 1Pet 2.16
  2. And whatever we lose by living to please the Lord will be more than made up with peace in this life and glory in the life to come, Mt 25.21
- II. Paul mentions four things that flesh out what a life fully pleasing to the Lord and worthy of the Lord looks like.
- A. Bearing fruit in every good work, v. 10
1. Our biblical knowledge is useless and our wishes to please God are lifeless if there's no fruit in good works, Js 2.17; Mt 7.21; Heb 12.14
  2. It's true that we're saved by grace and not by works, but it's equally true that we're saved to produce works, Eph 2.10; Jn 15.8. Also, this fruitfulness is to be a universal fruitfulness in all areas of our lives, not a select fruitfulness according to our own desires.
- B. Increasing in the knowledge of God, v. 10
1. That Christian who strives to bring all his Creed into practice and all his practice under the guidance of his Creed will find that he walks in the path of increasing knowledge, Rom 12.1-2. Knowledge feeds obedience, which increases knowledge.
- C. Being strengthened with all the power of God, v. 11
1. The Christian life is powered by the divine arm; it's a life which has for its engine all the power of God, Eph 1.19; 3.20
  2. But notice that the purpose for which the Lord gives His strength is so that we can win the victory over self- will in our trials, 2Cor 12.7-10; Mk 8.34; Lk 14.26-27
- D. Giving thanks to the Father, vv. 12-14
1. Thanksgiving should be seen at every stage of our walk before the Lord, and the grand reason why a Christian gives thanks to the Father is because he never loses sight of the miracle of his salvation.
  2. When you're ungrateful and complaining about your life, you've forgotten the pit from which you were dug and the heights to which you've been raised, Isa 51.1-3
- III. Set this character before your eyes as the object of all your prayers and the goal of all your striving. This is the Christian God calls you to be and the walk God calls you to walk. Pray this prayer until you see it fulfilled in your own life, Jn 16.23.

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**RESPONDING IN PRAISE TO GOD'S WORD**  
*Psalm 119E – Teach Me, O Lord, Your Way of Truth*

**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: Rev. Thomas Crumb**

**The Promises Book Club** will meet on Tuesday, October 20th at 7 pm at the church. We will be reading Chapter 9.

**Prayer Meeting** – Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> 6:30pm

**Birthdays this week:**

October 18th – Bob Brunton

October 19th – Grace Latta

October 19th – Luciana Leitão

October 21st – Jocelyn Barr

October 22nd – Joe Marcel

**Anniversaries:**

October 18th – Arnold & Pamela Johnson

**REMINDER:** If you haven't picked up your **Operation Christmas Child shoe box** yet, pick one up today! Every shoe box is a perfect opportunity for evangelism and discipleship which can lead to new believers and perhaps new churches. Did you know that after receiving shoe box gifts, many children participate in a follow-up program called The Greatest Journey? A local church volunteer leads children in a 12-lesson Bible based course, which includes Bible stories and Scripture memorization, some to do in class and some to do at home. They learn how to follow Christ in their daily lives as they share Him with friends and family. With each shoe box, children hold in their hands a tangible expression of God's love.

**The missionaries** for this month – Heero and Anya Hacquebord, Ukraine

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