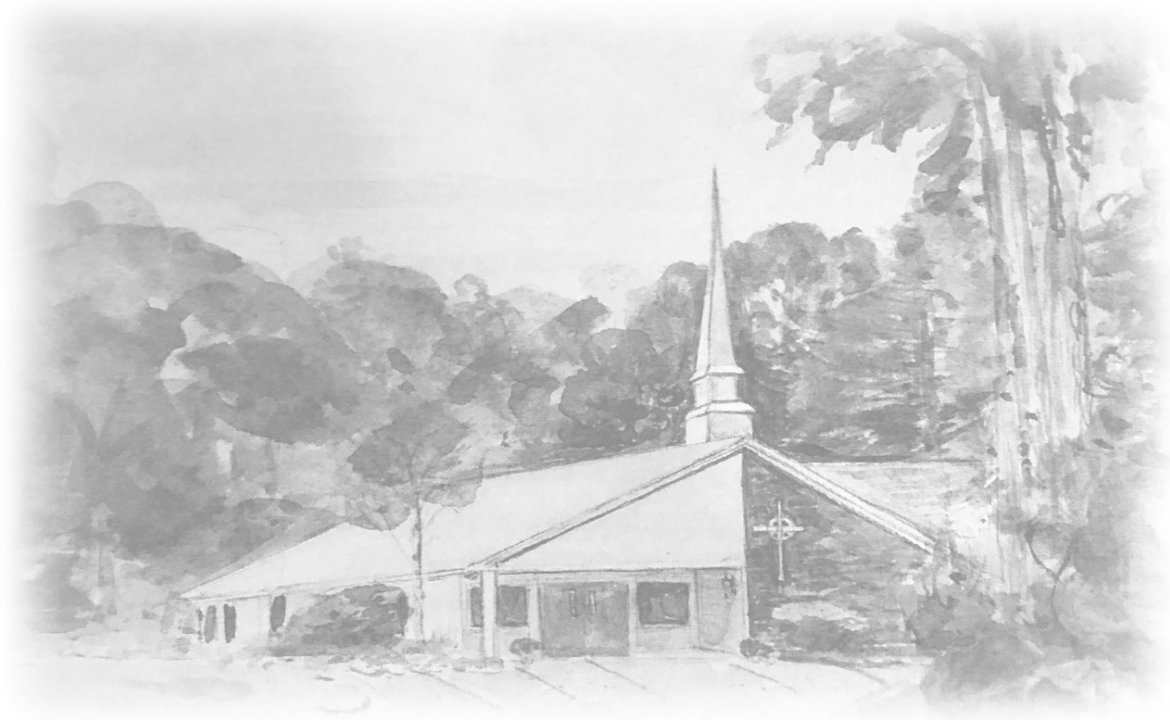


# *Presbyterian Church of Cape Cod*



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

*The Lord's Day*

November 15th, 2020

Rev. Dr. James A. La Belle, Pastor

Christian Education 8:50 am – 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 98:1-3*

**A HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Hymn 292 – Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

**A PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**THE CONFESSION OF OUR FAITH IN GOD**

Westminster Confession of Faith Chapter 13:1 - 2

They who are effectually called and regenerated, having a new heart and a new spirit created in them, are further sanctified really and personally through the virtue of Christ's death and resurrection by his Word and Spirit dwelling in them. The dominion of the whole body of sin is destroyed and the several lusts thereof are more and more weakened and mortified and they more and more quickened and strengthened in all saving graces to the practice of true holiness without which no man shall see the Lord. This sanctification is throughout in the whole man yet imperfect in this life. There abideth still some remnants of corruption in every part, whence ariseth a continual and irreconcilable war, the flesh lusting against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh.

**A HYMN OF RESPONSE**

*Hymn 393 – Spirit of God, Dwell Thou within My Heart (Stanzas 1 & 4)*

**THE CONFESSION OF OUR SINS TO GOD**

God of our salvation, what could we ever give to you in return for your greatest gift, your own dear Son? He is our peace and salvation, our Redeemer, our substitute. He stooped low to raise us up, was born like us that we might become like him. He united Deity and humanity, the Creator becoming created, so that one day we might shed our sinful flesh and be remade in his likeness. He worked out a perfect righteousness which was given to us so that we can draw near to you. When we cannot rise to him, he draws close and lifts us up to himself. He entered into holy

war with Satan, defeating our enemy, winning our battle and purchasing our eternal peace with you. O God, these are tidings of great joy and yet we often live without joy in our salvation. We find great joy in your good gifts without lifting our hearts to worship you, the giver of all good things. We prostitute our hearts daily. Our attention and admiration are easily bought for a moment of pleasure and escape. We are relentless worshipers of ourselves, fearful of talking about you and appearing foolish, committed to our own agendas and brazenly unwilling to go wherever you would send us, captivated by our own little kingdoms instead of gratefully serving in yours. No wonder we are easily shaken when our eyes are always on ourselves and the fragile things in which we put our hope. Enlarge our hearts to celebrate this good news of great joy for we are barely able to grasp the enormity of our salvation. Settle our hope and peace in the love of Christ and make his throne the pleasure ground of our souls. Help us to love those around us, drawing them into your family by caring and speaking of your greatness in wise and loving ways, always ready to share the great news and eager to explain the hope that is in us. Help us to sing of your goodness loudly in our souls and joyfully when we are together with hearts that are undone by your love and kindness to us. In Christ's great name we pray, amen.

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

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

But now in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. Ephesians 2:13–18

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

*Psalm 103E – O Come, My Soul, Bless Thou the Lord  
(Stanza 1)*

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

Revelation 2:12-17      Pew Bible Pg. 1311

#### **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 533 – Have Thine Own Way, Lord!*

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

Job 10:2      Pew Bible Pg. 536

Why does God contend against us?

Rev. James A. La Belle

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#### **OUTLINE**

*Job 10.2–Why does God contend against us?*

<b>Do not condemn me</b>
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- I. It was no small part of Job's suffering that he was numbered with the transgressors (cp. Mt 10.25; Lk 22.37)
  - A. So Job asks the Lord that He no longer treat him as the wicked but instead vindicate his integrity before his friends and

community.

- B. He's concerned more for God's glory than for his own reputation. For what does it say of God's service if this is how He treats His servants?

### Let me know why you contend against me

- I. There was a thick curtain drawn between Job's afflictions and the reason for them and Job asks God to keep it a secret no longer.
  - A. Notice what a testimony this is to Job's faith. There's a willingness to know his sin and, if any is pointed out, a resolve to leave it. This is evidence of the integrity and sincerity in Job of which God boasted, 1.8
  - B. So while there is infirmity in this prayer, there's also great faith.

### Reasons why God sometimes contends with us

- I. In order that He might show His own power in upholding you.
  - A. Nothing is more important in all our sufferings than that God be glorified by it. His glory is the end-all of all *He* does, which means it should be *our* end-all as well.
  - B. God loves the glory it brings Him when all can clearly see that it's He who upholds His people in their suffering, Ps 66.6
    - 1. As a part of ensuring He gets all the glory, God tends to reveal his people's weaknesses to the world (cf. Gen 26:7; Num 20.10; Jdg 6.11; 2Sam 11).
  - C. Sometimes God permits Satan to try them, saying "Do your worst. My servants are more than a match for you" (Job 1.8; 2.3), and then upholding them in the battle Himself (Eph 6.10-18).
  - D. And sometimes God Himself seems to come against them, casting them down with one hand while upholding them with the other (cp. Job 1.12 with v.22 and Job 2.6 with v.10)—all so that the world may know that the LORD, *He* is God.
- II. In order that He might grow your graces.
  - A. There are some graces—our most precious and Christlike graces, in fact—that would never be discovered if it weren't for our trials.
    - 1. Faith is hardly seen in the sunshine of prosperity (Heb 11.13). Hope is a star that can only be seen in the night of adversity (Rom 8.24). And patience and perseverance can't be seen as long as they're overshadowed by ease and comfort (Js 1.2-4).
  - B. God takes away your comforts and contends with you in order to make you better Christians. None of us will ever grow if we're left under the comfort of our covers.
- III. Because you have some secret sin that's doing you a world of hurt, Rev 2-3; 1Cor 11.29-32
  - A. Sometimes the Lord meets us in the way and contends with us because we're harboring an enemy of His in our heart (Ex 4.24). So He contends with us, calling us to cut off the hand that offends. He sets our house on fire to save our soul.
- IV. In order to humble you.
  - A. Pride will only die when we do. So it's because we're continually setting ourselves up that God is so continually putting us down.
- V. In order that you might share in the sufferings of His Son.
  - A. It's pleased the Lord to set it down as a principle of the kingdom of heaven that none will ever have a share of Christ's glory who never tasted of Christ's sufferings, 2Cor 1.5; Phil 3.10

### Directions for Responding to God's Contentions

- I. See that you justify God in all your afflictions, Neh 9.33; Ps 119.75; Job 1.21. You may not yet know why the Lord contends with you, but you know He's righteous in doing it.
- II. See that you do what Job does and go to God with this question. Ask it humbly, sincerely, and contentedly, but don't stand idle before God's rod as if you didn't care to know what's going on.
- III. See that you exercise a strong faith in all your sufferings because nothing will keep the sins of murmuring, impatience, pride, and atheism under your feet like a strong faith. Let your faith support your soul in all your trials by helping you learn to live upon Christ.

IV. If the Lord's contending with you, take heart, find out why, make the most of it, and be thankful, because it means He loves you, Heb 12.7

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## **RESPONDING IN PRAISE TO GOD'S WORD**

*Hymn 532 – Be Still, My Soul*

### **OUR LORD'S BENEDECTION**

#### **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** – Sinful Anger, Part 1 - Pastor La Belle

**The Promises Book Club** will meet on Tuesday, November 17th at 7 pm at the church. We will be reading Chapter 10.

**Prayer Meeting** – Wednesday, November 18th, 6:30pm

**Christian Education:** November 22th – Chris Harris, Chapter 6:16-34, J.C. Ryle's Matthew Study

**Thanksgiving Prayer Service** Wednesday, November 25th at 6:30pm

**Birthdays this week:**

November 20th – Bernie Beveridge

**Anniversaries:**

November 17th - Jonathan & Tara Furman

November 21st - David & Gayle Smith

**The missionaries** for this month – James and Esther Folkerts, Uganda

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