

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2020

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Abide With Me! Fast Falls the Eventide* S.A. Hofland

CALL TO WORSHIP

Brothers and sisters, the love of God is poured over you.

We feel our thirsting souls quenched by God's mercy.

We are called to share God's love by our words.

We are invited to share God's love by our compassionate acts.

Come, let us worship the Lord!

Let us bow down and proclaim God's goodness.

OPENING PRAYER

God of power and might, help us recognize the imprint of your love and mercy in our lives. Open our hearts to that love that we may grow in our faith and be strengthened in our witness to you. In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

HYMN #138 *Holy, Holy, Holy!* R. Heber & J. B. Dykes

***Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!***

***Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.***

***Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see;
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.***

***Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Patient God, we are so easily distracted from what you would have us be and what you would have us do. We allow ourselves to be claimed by the angry and hurting world as though we bore a stamp reflecting the hostility. You remind us that, from the beginning, your love has been available to us. Forgive us when we so easily turn toward ignorance and greed as ways of living in the world. Heal our wounded souls. Challenge us to be your people — not owned by false promises of instant wealth and status — but strengthened and empowered to be those who bring hope through our words and actions. In Jesus' name, we pray.

(Silent Personal Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In our words, smiles, compassionate living we bear the image of our God. In our willingness to serve the voiceless and alienated, the lost and alone, God's presence abides with us.

We rejoice! We are called "Beloved of God" and given God's own stamp in our lives. Amen!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE READINGS Exodus 33:12-23; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Hear what the spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Letting God Be God

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

***We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.***

We trust in God.

***We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.***

***In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.***

Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

***Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.***

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

Offertory *Consolation*
Prayer of Dedication

F. Liszt

HYMN #288 *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

I. Watts

***I sing the mighty power of God
That made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad
And built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command,
And all the stars obey.***

***I sing the goodness of the Lord
That filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word
And then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,
Where'er I turn my eyes,
If I survey the ground I tread
Or gaze upon the skies!***

***There's not a plant or flower below
But makes Thy glories known,
And clouds arise and tempests blow
By order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee
Is ever in Thy care,
And everywhere that we can be,
Thou, God, are present there.***

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *To Thy Temple I Repair*

L. Lenel

Today's written prayers are by Nancy C. Townley for the *ministrymatters.com* website. The *Affirmation of Faith* is from *The United Church of Canada* from their website: www.united-church.ca/beliefs/creed.

Tatiana Akhounzianova is the church organist/pianist. Today's Liturgist is Janet Parziale.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Bill Richter, Nina (Tatiana's Mother,) Kristin & Karin & Steve (Joyce Koenig), George Armenti III, Ann Ventura (Toni Hopcraft), B.J. Cardinali, Robin Schmidt, Sheryl Greife (Tom Parziale), Art Fletcher, Jennifer Moore (Veronica Moore), Bill Hurlock (Joyce Koenig), Phyllis Clemson, Justin Byrnes (Tom Parziale), Bryan Hague, Al Wermuth (Paul & Sue Wermuth), Maryann (Leslie Beechner), Howard Boice (Bill Hopcraft), Nancy Walsh (Dawn Mackay), Vicky Sama (Joanne Sama), Jean Marie Dowling (Lore & Rich Pateman), Marge McKeever (Brooke Parziale's grandmother), Veronica Moore, Lore Pateman, Danica Lamza Ridgway (Kim Ridgway), Peg Arnold (Jan Somers), Kathleen Zuback (Tom & Janet Parziale)

BIRTHDAYS

Trevor Dalin-Peters Saturday, 10/24