



## First Presbyterian Church of Ridgewood NJ

*We are a welcoming community formed in Christ, committed to sharing his love with others – with feet that carry us out into the world, with hands that serve, and with hearts in fellowship and faith.*  
– First Presbyterian Church Mission Statement, adopted October 2018



### ELEVENTH SUNDAY *after* PENTECOST

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025

Watch live: <https://www.youtube.com/live/U9GJ238JPqE>

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#### PRELUDE

*Adagio (from Organ Sonata #1) – Felix Mendelssohn*  
Deborah Holden-Holloway, Organ

WELCOME *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ Rev. Bruce Ballantine

#### CALL to WORSHIP

O sing to the Lord a new song;  
**sing to the Lord, all the earth.**  
Sing, and give praise to God's name;  
**tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.**

\*HYMN 482 – *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

#### PRAYER of CONFESSION

**Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.**

#### SILENT CONFESSION

#### ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

\*HYMN 579 – *Gloria Patri*

\*PASSING of the PEACE

#### MUSICAL OFFERING

*How Lovely Are the Messengers* from *St. Paul* - Felix Mendelssohn  
The Combined Choirs of First Presbyterian and West Side Presbyterian Churches  
Dr. Edward Schmiedecke, Conductor

*How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace, the gospel of peace! To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words. How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace.*

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Christine Park, Pastoral Associate for Children and Families at West Side Presbyterian Church

*Following the Children's Message, children and youth are invited to attend Sunday School in the Christian Education Annex.*

OLD TESTAMENT READING ~ Jeremiah 1:4-10

Rev. Bruce Ballantine

GOSPEL READING ~ Luke 13:10-17

Rev. Bruce Ballantine

SERMON

Rev. Marc Oehler, Pastor and Head of Staff at Westside Presbyterian Church

*Set Free*

PRAYERS *of the* PEOPLE *and* THE LORD'S PRAYER

Trusting in the power of God to deliver us,  
let us make our prayers of intercession for all, saying: God our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church. Let your church be a living sign of the kingdom that cannot be shaken.  
Shape us into a people who act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.

*Silent Prayer*

God our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world. Be a rock of refuge and strong fortress for those who are in trouble or distress.

Rescue the innocent from the wicked.

Hasten the day when nations beat swords into plowshares and neither learn war any more.

Guide leaders of nations that they might rule with justice and work for the common good.

*Silent Prayer*

God our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our communities. Teach us to offer our food to the hungry,  
and provide for the needs of the afflicted so that your light may shine in us.

*Silent Prayer*

God our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for loved ones. Forgive their sins, heal their diseases,  
bring them up out of their despair, and satisfy them with your goodness.

*Silent Prayer*

God our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful and mighty God, as you are one, make us one with you through Jesus Christ,  
whom you have sent to redeem us, and in whose holy name we pray.

And now we are bold to pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**



 Tithe.ly

CALL to OFFERING

You may make your offering via Tithe.ly,  
place an offering in the plate as it is passed,  
or mail a check to the church office. Thank you!



 Tithe.ly

## OFFERTORY SOLO

*O, Divine Redeemer!* - Charles Gounod

Vera Coleman, Soprano

*Ah! Turn me not away, receive me, tho' unworthy! Hear Thou my cry, behold, Lord, my distress! Answer me from Thy throne, haste Thee, Lord, to mine aid. Thy pity show in my deep anguish! Let not the sword of vengeance smite me, tho' righteous Thine anger, O Lord! Shield me from danger, O regard me! On Thee, Lord, alone will I call. O, divine Redeemer! I pray Thee, grant me pardon, and remember not my sins! Forgive me, O divine Redeemer! I pray Thee, grant me pardon and remember not my sins! Night gathers round my soul; fearful, I cry to Thee. Come to mine aid, O Lord! Haste Thee, Lord, haste to help me! Hear my cry, save me Lord, in Thy mercy. Hear my cry! Come and save me, O Lord! O divine Redeemer! I pray Thee, grant me pardon and remember not, O Lord, my sins! Save in the day of retribution, from death shield Thou me, O my God! O, divine Redeemer, have mercy! Help me, my Savior!*

\*DOXOLOGY – Hymn 592

\*PRAYER of DEDICATION

\*HYMN [see attached] – *We Cannot Measure How You Heal*

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*Allegro maestoso* (from *Organ Sonata #2*) – Felix Mendelssohn

Deborah Holden-Holloway, Organ

## CHANCEL FLOWERS

*Chancel Flowers are given by the Woman's Guild  
in loving memory of their member, Susan King.*

\*Please stand if you are able.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

*for* SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 1:4-10

<sup>4</sup>Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, <sup>5</sup>'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.' <sup>6</sup>Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.' <sup>7</sup>But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say, "I am only a boy"; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. <sup>8</sup>Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you,' says the Lord. <sup>9</sup>Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, 'Now I have put my words in your mouth. <sup>10</sup>See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.'

### GOSPEL READING

Luke 13:10-17

<sup>10</sup> Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. <sup>11</sup> And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." <sup>13</sup> When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. <sup>14</sup> But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." <sup>15</sup> But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? <sup>16</sup> And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" <sup>17</sup> When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

## 482 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.7.8

Joachim Neander, 1680

Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.

Stralsund *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, 1665Harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863

Desc. Craig Sellar Lang, 1953

*Descant*

3. Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

1. Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
2. Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly  
3. Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

dore Him! All that hath life and breath, come now with  
a tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy  
reign - eth, Shel - ters thee un - der His wings, yea, so  
dore Him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

prais - es be - fore Him! Let the a - men Sound from His  
health and sal - va tion! All ye who hear, Now to His  
gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen How thy de -  
prais - es be - fore Him! Let the a - men Sound from His

peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for aye we a - dore Him.  
tem - ple draw near; Join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
sires e'er have been Grant - ed in what He or - dain - eth?  
peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for aye we a - dore Him.

## 797 We Cannot Measure How You Heal

1 We can - not mea - sure how you heal or  
 2 The pain that will not go a - way, the  
 3 So some have come who need your help and

an - swer ev - ery suf - ferer's prayer, yet the  
 guilt that clings from things long past, as  
 some have come to make a - mends,

we be - lieve your grace re - sponds where  
 fear of what the fu - ture holds, are  
 hands which shaped and saved the world are

faith and doubt u - nite to care. Your  
 pres - ent as if meant to last. But  
 pres - ent in the touch of friends. Lord,

This 20th-century text from the Iona Community grapples with the realities of illness and pain, not only as they afflict the body but even more as they lay waste to mind and soul. The traditional folk melody helps to convey the sort of communal experience assumed in the last stanza.

hands, though blood - ied on the cross, sur -  
 pres - ent too is love which tends the  
 let your Spir - it meet us here to

vive to hold and heal and warn, to  
 hurt we nev - er hoped to find, the  
 mend the bod - y, mind, and soul, to

car - ry all through death to life and  
 pri - vate ag - o - nies in - side, the  
 dis - en - tan - gle peace from pain, and

cra - dle chil - dren yet un - born.  
 mem - o - ries that haunt the mind.  
 make your bro - ken peo - ple whole.