



First Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

June 28, 2020 at 10:00

We Gather to Worship

PRELUDE

Mark Cole

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

WELCOME

Doug Gerdts and Nikki Passante

OPENING SENTENCES

Peter Leibesperger

One: God calls us by name into the presence of holiness.

All: We answer this call by the grace of God

One: through the power of the Holy Spirit,

All: in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

One: Come, let us worship God.

MUSIC

Meditations on ABBOT'S LEIGH, "God is Here!"

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: Siblings in Christ, God not only asks us to confess, but also assures us of forgiveness. More than that, God is anxious to restore us to wholeness in mind, body, and soul. Friends, this is not a time for wallowing in guilt; it is instead a time of cleansing and refreshment in the waters of God's love and acceptance. Let us pray ...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we do not always keep your commandments; we fail to love you with all of our being and our conscience is not clear. Wash us in the water of life that we may live again through the grace and mercy of Jesus, our resurrected Savior. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: Friends, God forgives, restores, and strengthens us through the risen Christ. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free to begin life anew! Amen!

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

We Listen to the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Come Holy Spirit, our helper and advocate:

Open our hearts and minds this day, entice us with your presence.

Spark us with a word of life—a message that we may share with others as we seek to live Christ’s love in the world. All this we ask in the name of God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

CHILDREN’S GREETING

ANTHEM

Barry Wilhjelms, clarinet

HOMILY

“The Hessians Will Get You!”

Dr. Gerdtz

We Respond in Faith

MUSIC

Meditations on BUNESSAN, “Morning Has Broken”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Mark Cole



WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN HADDONFIELD ONLINE! God is present wherever people gather—even virtually. Please be in touch if you have news to share or would like more information or to talk to a pastor. Contact information below.

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO THE REV. DOUG GERDTS who takes the reins this week as Transitional Senior Pastor! Read about Doug [here](#). Drive through the parking lot after worship to wave hello. Doug’s FPCH email address is doug@haddonfieldpres.org.

RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN’S SUNDAY PARTICIPATION – Each week Youth Director Gab Heimerling emails out a story and activities for friends in Preschool through 2nd grade. Contact her at gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org to get on the email list. Resources can also be accessed on the website.

DRIVE-THROUGH OFFERING continues in the church parking lot each week between 11 and noon on Sunday mornings. Drop off food or a financial gift and get a friendly wave from a safely distanced and masked elder or deacon. (For online giving, use <https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyteri11244/Give.>)

THANK YOU FOR KEEPING UP YOUR DRIVE-THROUGH DONATIONS! You are helping to sustain many of our neighbors. **Continuing needs** are peanut butter, tuna, pasta, sauce, adult diapers – medium or large, feminine hygiene pads, bar soap, and toothpaste. Pet supplies are back on the list: dog food, cat food, and cat litter. And don't forget grocery bags, especially paper. Thank you for your love and caring!

NEW INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY! Every Tuesday morning at 8:00 a.m. join Doug for a conversation about the scripture that will be the text for the following Sunday's sermon. The format is simple: Doug will present for about 20 minutes and then open things up to questions, reflections, responses, and general wonderings about the text. For this Tuesday, June 30th, the focus is on Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30. Here's the Zoom [link](#) — and hope to see you there!

PASTOR NIKKI'S ZOOM BIBLE STUDY GOES ON HIATUS – Pastor Nikki's Thursday Bible study will take a break on July 2 and July 9th. This opportunity for fellowship and discussion will be back online July 16th.

THE PANDEMIC FAMILY GROUP MEETS THIS WEEK! This is a small group geared towards parents and young couples to share stories and struggles with scripture in hand. Meetings are in 3-week blocks with a break in between. The next meetings are Wednesdays, July 1st and July 8th at 8:00 on Zoom. July 15 is a week off. Contact Gab Heimerling for the link: gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org. You are welcome to jump in anytime you like – if you just need to talk, to be around other people, to pray or to hear how others are coping – you are invited.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE CHURCH BUILDING IS CLOSED – No one should enter the building. If a staff member has given you permission to be there, you must wear a mask and gloves.

THE DEACONS NEED YOUR SUPPORT! The Deacons thank you all for your support and continue to ask for your help during this time. Your contributions are greatly beneficial to the Deacon's as the funds go towards families in need, Deacon scholarships, and the faith-based organizations within our church community including: AIDS ministry, Caring Hearts, Interfaith Care Givers, UrbanPromise, Feed My Starving Children, IHOC, Women's Prison Ministry, St. Wilfrid's, Guatemala Milk Project, and Mission Trips. Your contributions help us meet the needs of these deserving organizations, and that is why we ask for your assistance. Thank you and we greatly appreciate all of your help. Stay safe and healthy!

THE FPCH BLOG HAS RETURNED! Over the next several weeks, staff members will be contributing. Go to <http://www.haddonfieldpres.org/blog.aspx> This week Gab Heimerling talks about the books that got her through the disorientations of quarantine this spring. Hint: wizards are involved.

FOLLOW THE CHURCH ON INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK – See activities, photos, inspirational messages, and links to interesting articles. Instagram: [fpch_1906](#) and Facebook: [@FirstPresbyNJ](#)

SCRIPTURE FOR SUNDAY, JULY 5, AND DOUG'S BIBLE STUDY: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your

gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”



STUDENTS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE MARCHED THROUGH HADDONFIELD ON JUNE 24



Photos: Doug Gerdts

Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Douglas D. Gerdts, Transitional Senior Pastor and Head of Staff – doug@haddonfieldpres.org

The Rev. Nikki Passante, Associate Pastor – npassante@haddonfieldpres.org

Peter Leibensperger, Minister of Music – pleibensperger@haddonfieldpres.org

Nancy Ruth Wainwright, Director of Children’s Choirs – nancyruthw@comcast.net

Mark Cole, Organist – mcole@haddonfieldpres.org

Gabrielle Heimerling, Director of Youth and Family Ministries – gheimerling@haddonfieldpres.org

Barb Sewall, Preschool Director – preschool@haddonfieldpres.org

Marisa McGovern, Preschool Director – preschool@haddonfieldpres.org

Ed Hess, Community Caseworker – edwh517@aol.com

Kris Bean, Financial Secretary – kbean@haddonfieldpres.org

Anne Vial, Office Administrator – avial@haddonfieldpres.org

Rebecca Mannion, Receptionist – rmannion@haddonfieldpres.org

Mike Richardson, Custodian

Mark Hall, Security