

Worship Notes

Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31

Often called “Low Sunday,” this Second Sunday of Easter provides an opportunity to explore various dimensions of Jesus’ resurrection and the implications for human community. Though each text has its own peculiar perspective on the delivering power of God, in a remarkable way the texts group themselves.

The readings from Psalm 16 and Acts 2 naturally fit together, since the latter quotes the former. Both celebrate the presence of God in human life and the powerful expression of that presence. The psalmist trusts in Yahweh’s protecting hand in the face of Sheol, and gives thanks that he has not only been spared the “Pit” but has been given direction by God for “the path of life” (Psalm 16:11). In his Pentecost sermon, Peter sees a messianic application of the psalm to the resurrection of Jesus. God is not absent from the crucifixion, but is expressly present in raising Jesus, in not abandoning him to Hades or letting him suffer corruption.

By quoting Psalm 16, Peter’s sermon also takes seriously the power of death that has been overcome by the power of God. In the resurrection, Jesus is “freed ... from death,” delivered from a power that could not hold him (Acts 2:24). The citation of the psalm serves as a reminder that death and resurrection are broader than the issues of physical death and immortality. They connote the various forces that hinder life’s full expression and the promise of God’s presence to overcome their intimidation and paralysis.

Just as the readings from Psalm 16 and Acts 2 exhibit parallel concerns, so the passages from John 20 and 1 Peter 1 demonstrate similarities. Two common and even interrelated features are prominent. First, both texts affirm that resurrection creates community. The image of “new birth” (1 Peter 1:3), implies a new family, a new relatedness for mutual support in a time of various trials. John 20:19-23 stresses the close continuity between the risen Jesus and the emerging church.

Second, both 1 Peter and John stress the faith and love of Christians that arise without experience of physical contact with Jesus. Instead, for later generations, belief and commitment are born out of the witness of others, out of the repeated declarations of forgiveness, out of the nurture and support of the very community that Jesus’ resurrection created.

Texts for Preaching: A Lectionary Commentary based on the NRSV—Year A

Mission Statement

First Presbyterian Church of Portland, Oregon, is called to obedience to Christ to whom the Scriptures bear witness and to the fulfillment of the Great Commission:

Go...and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.
Matthew 28:19-20

We believe our call to serve as the Body of Christ is mandated by Christ alone and is supported by Him in every way through the dedicated discipleship of this community of Faith.

We minister to the community at our doorstep, the nation and the world.

Through worship, education, fellowship, mission outreach and the promotion of social justice, we witness to the power of God’s redemptive grace.

First Presbyterian Church will continue to be a body through which the Gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed, experienced, practiced and made first in our lives.

Prayers of the People

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

We are thankful for our Senior High Mission Team and their leaders who completed their important work in Guatemala this past week. The team returned to Portland yesterday.

PRAYER FOR MISSION

Today our denomination marks the multicultural church. Culture is a group of characteristics that we receive, sometimes unknowingly, that define who we are and how we communicate and relate to each other. We can be part of an ethnic culture, a social culture, an economic culture, a generational culture, even a theological culture. Rev. Marissa Galván-Valle of the General Assembly Council says that the Latino church in the PC(USA) is a church that may look homogeneous. All the members speak the same language but they may be first-generation members or second-generation children who speak better English than Spanish. They come from different countries—with different viewpoints, different foods and different rhythms and traditions in their blood—and they are all called “Hispanic.” We have to reclaim that we are a church born of the Spirit and that the Spirit of God thrives in diversity. The struggle is to become the church God wants us to become: a church composed of brothers and sisters who are all united by the same God.

2008 Mission Prayerbook of Prayer and Study

PRAYER FOR PEACE

God Creator, Redeemer and Comforter, even in the Trinity we can see the diversity that you have in your divine will. Help us to see our differences as treasures and not as reasons to divide us. Help us to answer the call to praise that you have given to all nations, and help us to reach out to those of different cultures with the same love and mercy that you have shown us. This we pray in name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Church Pastoral and Program Staff

Dr. J. Thomas Green, Interim Pastor
Rev. Anne Stewart Miller, Associate Pastor/Christian Education
Dr. Thomas C. Nolen, Associate Pastor/Congregational Nurture
Dr. J. Spencer Parks, Associate Pastor/Retreat Ministries/Menucha Director
Dr. Jon Stuber, Director of Music Ministries
Sally Bowder, Church Business Administrator
Jason Mitchell, Director of Youth Ministries
Ann van Bever, Instrumental Music Program Assistant
Daniel Burnett, Youth Choir Director
Kristen Buhler, Children’s Choir Director
Ben Kinkley, Cherub Choir Director
Patty Warman, Julia West Program Director
Tom Wilson, Daywatch Coordinator
Rev. William Creevey, Pastor Emeritus
Mr. James Welty, Director of Music Emeritus



Service for the Lord’s Day

1200 SW Alder Street • Portland, Oregon 97205 • 503-228-7331
Broadcast live on 1330 AM KKPZ radio and over the Internet at www.fpcpdx.org

March 30, 2008 **Second Sunday of Easter** **10:00 a.m.**

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE “Allegretto” Paul Juon
from *Divertimento for Piano, Flute, Clarinet, Horn and Bassoon, Op. 51*
(*Alder Street Sextet*)

INTROIT “Versicle and Response” Herbert Sumsion
O Lord, open thou our lips; and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
O God, make speed to save us, O Lord, make haste to help us.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.
Praise ye the Lord; the Lord’s name be praised.
(*Chancel Choir*)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us worship God.
O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;
God’s steadfast love endures forever.

*PRAYER FOR THE DAY

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***HYMN NO. 104** “Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!” HYMN TO JOY

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn. We do not love you fully or love one another as you command. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, Amen.

A moment is kept for individual reflection.

Large print bulletins and assisted hearing devices are available. Ask an usher.

***KYRIE**

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
 Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.
 Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

***DECLARATION OF PARDON**

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.
Amen.

***RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING** HAMBURG

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
 That were a present far too small;
 Love so amazing, so divine,
 Demands my soul, my life, my all.

***THE PEACE**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, we also ought to forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.
You are invited to greet those around you with words and signs of God's reconciling peace.

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH
Please sign and pass the Friendship Folder and return the folder back down the pew so that you may know those sitting with you.

GOOD NEWS MOMENT Transition Team

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALM Psalm 16 Pew Bible, page 495
 The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT
Kindergarten through 5th grade children are now dismissed to their classes beginning in the Whitman Room, then their classroom. Please consult the bulletin board at the 13th Avenue entrance for your child's classroom location after worship. Preschoolers, accompanied by a parent, may go directly to their classroom.

EPISTLE LESSON Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Pew Bible, page 119
 The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "Now the Green Blade Riseth" Simon Lindley

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain.
 Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
 Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
 Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid him. Love whom men had slain,
 Thinking that never he would wake again,
 Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
 Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain.
 He that for three days in the grave had lain.
 Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen;
 Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
 Thy touch can call us back to life again,
 Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
 Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.
(Chancel Choir)

GOSPEL LESSON John 20:19-31 Pew Bible, page 115
 The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON "Peace Be with You" Dr. Green

***HYMN NO. 121** PUER NOBIS NASCITUR
 "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(Unison)* from the Confession of 1967

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself. Jesus Christ is God with humankind. He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. We are entrusted with God's message of reconciliation, sharing the labor of healing enmities that separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called us to this mission and given us the gift of the Holy Spirit.

THE OFFERING "Intermezzo II – Tempo di menuetto" Paul Juon
 from *Divertimento*, Op. 51
(Alder Street Sextet)

***DOXOLOGY** OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise God all creatures here below;
 Praise God above, you heavenly host,
 Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

***PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION**
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
Prayer is offered.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(Unison)*

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.

SENDING

***HYMN NO. 118** "The Day of Resurrection!" LANCASHIRE

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE** Peter C. Lutkin

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"
 The Lord bless you and keep you,
 The Lord lift His countenance upon you;
 And give you peace.
 The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
 And be gracious unto you. Amen.
(Chancel Choir)

***POSTLUDE** "Rondino – Allegro assai" Paul Juon
 from *Divertimento*, Op. 51
(Alder Street Sextet)

*Please stand if you are able. ♦ Ushers may seat latecomers.

WORSHIP LEADERS

J. Thomas Green: Call to Worship, Prayer for the Day, Welcome, Gospel Lesson, Sermon, Benediction
 Anne Stewart Miller: Confession, Pardon, Peace
 Thomas C. Nolen: Children's Moment, Affirmation of Faith, Offering
 J. Spencer Parks: Prayer for Illumination, Old Testament Lesson, Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession, Lord's Prayer
 Jon Stuber: Organist/Choirmaster
 Chris Halverson: Acolyte
 Jon Clemens: Good News Moment
 Mandy Bentley: Epistle Lesson
 Alder Street Sextet: Janet Bebb, *flute*; Ann van Bever, *oboe*; Nanita McIlhattan, *clarinet*; Boyd Osgood, *bassoon*; Jill Jaques, *horn*; Michael Liu, *piano*

The arrangement of flowers in the sanctuary this morning is given in honor of all the members of First Presbyterian Church by George, Nancy, Geordie, and Connor McNeill.