



NORTH LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Web: <http://www.northlibertypc.org>

209 N. Liberty-Plain Grove Rd., Grove City, PA 16127

July 2021

Vol. 50 : No. 7



ACTS OF WORSHIP: BEING "ALIENS" & "SOJOURNERS" IN TIMES OF CULTURAL EXILE

A CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: Glory to the Father in Whom all things began!

People: Glory to the Son Who became the Son of Man!

Pastor: Glory to the Spirit Who inspires and renews, the Lord our God forever! The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place?

People: He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

Pastor: He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

People: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory?

Pastor: The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory?

Unison: The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory!

[Psalms 24 || ESV]



Brothers & Sisters,

As I sit on my patio with my mug of coffee this bright clear morning, being warmed by the bright orange ball beginning to rise over the horizon, I was thinking about the Psalmist's words above in what is a clear Scriptural Call to Worship. And, as I do, I am also confronted by the morning news, by dozens of e-mails, never-ending "to-do lists" and left thinking about our place as "strangers in a strange land".

This, however, is not a counsel of despair! It is a reminder to all of us, as believers, that every day we awake and move — even haltingly — is another day to worship the Lord our God. It is the opportunity to strive to grow into the salvation accomplished on our behalf by the completed work of Jesus Christ on the Cross for our sin, in the fullness of the Holy Spirit Who awakens us to saving faith by opening our hearts and minds.

It is another opportunity to take every thought, word and deed captive to Christ and to be conformed to the image of Christ. Awaken, greet the sun as you greet the Son.

As we hear the roaring cacophony of discordant voices, feel the pull of great and small temptations and struggle to fight the good fight, let us begin with worship of the Triune God Who created, redeemed and sustains us.

As I write this column, we have just celebrated this nation's 245th Independence Day. We have heard the speeches. We have enjoyed the fireworks, the family, food and fun denied to us last year because of Pandemic lock-downs. We also hear the accusations, counter-accusations and criticisms of one side against the other and vice versa. The sights and sounds have not all been entirely edifying, and some, in truth, have been flat-out demoralizing.

Where does the Church of Jesus Christ fit into this vast mosaic of humanity? What is our role in the unfolding dramas of our times? How can we change or improve the situations in which we find ourselves?

On Sunday a month ago during worship, we celebrated and recognized our high school and college graduates and, as we did so, part of our theme for the morning was taken from Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." I have been thinking a great deal about these words, their meaning when given to Jeremiah, and their continuing meaning for us in the present American context.

This prophetic verse has been a touchstone of hope for literal billions of people of faith since the words came from Jeremiah's tongue and pen. And so they should. But the promise contained within in them is not unambiguously positive. It is a promise that does bring hope, but does so in the larger context of shared suffering, difficulty and collective responsibility for the sins of the Chosen People.

Jeremiah solemnly delivers the Lord's verdict and sentence against His own people whom He loves and for whom He has a plan. The people broke faith with Yahweh, led themselves and each other into greater and greater levels of disobedience and sin against Him. Finally, God uses the great military and political strength of the Babylonian Empire to punish those same beloved Chosen People. He sovereignly allows them to be transported into exile in a foreign land for a 70 year sentence that will repay the numbers of Sabbatical years and Years of Jubilee that were ignored, or only weakly observed and celebrated.

They will, and DO HAVE, a hope and a promise for their good. But, it is a hope and a promise that will lead them through difficulty, trial and strife!

That promise they are given is annexed to the words of sentencing and command that Yahweh has Jeremiah deliver to them in verses 4 – 9 of the same passage:

"Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the LORD.

They will be allowed to return to the Promised Land. They, as a people, will still see the Messianic Promises fulfilled, and, by faith, they will enjoy the even greater promise of that yet-to-be-delivered Promised Land. But first, they must endure their exile as "strangers in a strange land". They must

remember what it means to be aliens and exiles relying upon God and His grace, and they must do so by seeking the good of the nation where God has placed them.

Brothers and Sisters, we believers in Jesus Christ, also live as “aliens and exiles”. Yes, we are citizens of this great Republic. Yes we have secular dreams, plans and responsibilities. BUT, and this is a huge BUT, these are achieved only when we are faithful and true to our call — when we remember that our citizenship is a dual one. We are residents of this earthly republic, but our PRIMARY Citizenship is in the Coming Heavenly Kingdom, and our allegiance is owed to the King and God of that Kingdom.

Indeed, we do have a “hope and a promise for our good, and not for harm,” but we have that hope as we enter each day worshipfully remembering that every day given us, is given by God’s grace to be used faithfully for the good of the world around us as we deliver to them the Gospel of Jesus Christ and do the work of the Kingdom in which we have our citizenship.

As we return to some semblance of “normal life” in the wake of pandemic dislocations and travails, let us do so with public corporate worship, with daily lives of private worship that seek to make everything we think, do a say acts of worship of the King of Glory from Psalm 24. And Who is the King of Glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory!

We worship love and serve the Triune God of glory who is our Father, reveals Himself through the completed work of His Son in the power of His Holy Spirit!

Grace & Peace to you in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Rusty+



SESSION

Regular Meeting, Thursday, June 16, 2021 at 6:00pm
North Liberty Presbyterian Church

Elders Present: Abbey Novotny, John Hemmerlin, Gerry Sankey, Joyce Youshock,

Moderator: Rev. Albert Stuart, Deacon, Allen Fleming

ABSENT: Janice McElhinny, Deb Hartman

Opened with Prayer by Moderator, Rev. Stuart

Deacon’s Report: Allen advised Becky and Diana planted the Geraniums for Memorial Day, and he put topsoil around the Geraniums.

Took DVD to Garalynn Barlow, NO meetings scheduled until Sept. unless needed.

Trustees Report: Abbey reported for Mike that the oven was taken for scrap and received \$81.00.

Outside steps- side entrance still not done, received a quote for 1 boiler of \$23,000, still waiting for

more.

6/17 Trustees w/Mission to work on weeds in flower bed. See if Paul needs help mowing grass?

Treasurer's Report: Deb sent written financial report

MOTION MADE/SECONDED, PASSED to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Need two people for July & Aug. to count offering. Gerry and Joyce-July, Aug-Abbey.

Business:

Motion Made/Seconded and Passed to accept the 5/13/21 minutes, with following correction.

CORRECTION TO 5/13/21 MEETING:

Absent: Abbey Novotny, Excused: Gerry Sankey in Hospital.

Correspondence:

We received a resignation letter from Dorry Sankey, as Janitor

We thanked Dorry and Gerry for all their hard work and Exemplary service.

Motion made/ Seconded, and Passed with regrets that we accept her resignation

At present Kevin Uber is doing the janitor job: 4-4 1/2hrs/week, Kevin advised he could help till August.

Session asked that Dorry & Gerry provide a job list for the Janitor position.

Concerns: Gerry advised that the doors downstairs were left open, water bottles were found on the portico, light in the women's bathroom downstairs needs to be replaced.

Suggestion: have a Janitor's box to leave notes of needed repairs.

Worship and Ministry:

John suggested leaving the offering plates in the Narthex.

We don't have Trustees help to do collection.

Old Business:

Carole doing better, Karen is to help her update the church directory.

John posted the 2021 Labor Law Poster in the Boiler Room

New Business:

Delegate for Presby Meeting: Grove City College 5/25/21,

Joyce & Pastor Rusty went. Sue Black was installed as Vice-Moderator.

Special meeting June 29 via Zoom for Pastor candidate, Joyce & Pastor Rusty to participate.

Committee reports:

Christian Ed- Joyce,

Advised seven (7) Bibles purchased for the High School graduates,

Purchased Father's Day Bookmarks

Children's Dept. may combine the two (2) classes for summer: Abbey-Gretta to decide.

Mission - Abbey

Clean weeds out of flowerbed 6/17. Still collecting aluminum cans and tabs.

Worship - Janice

Activities as listed last month

John cancelled Zoom at present time, but if needed can initiate again.

House - John

John created a red book for Carole concerning church calendar events

Mary & Gary Stoops requested Fellowship Hall 6/26 @ 1pm for son's 20th Wedding Anniversary Party.
Motion made/Seconded/Passed.

NO other requests at present time.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Rusty visited, Helen Sevin, she's moving in with Mark.

Talked on phone w/Linda Beatty,

Spoke with David Dunkerly, he is now allowed to do light duty, CANCER free,

Spoke w/Evelyn, she's doing better.

Announcements:

No regular meeting for July/August unless needed.

Communion: May 30, 2021 served 44 (no shut-in due to restrictions for COVID)

Adjournment:

Motion made/Seconded and Passed to adjourn.

Pastor Rusty closed with prayer.

Joyce Youshock

Recording Secretary

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

The Search Committee is seeking women willing to take on a leadership position in our organization. Linda Beatty is the committee chair but since she isn't in tip top shape right now, you can contact Janice McElhinny to volunteer your time and talent. There are several positions to be filled so please prayerfully consider where God wants you to serve. Our prayers are with Linda as she recuperates. We can't wait until she is back in our fold at North Liberty. We hope the items in her pretty purple Sunshine Basket brighten her day and let her know that we are thinking of her.

Evelyn Koprivnikar is also a circle member who is in our prayers as she nurses her newly broken arm. The Fellowship Committee stopped in on May 5th, dropped off dinner and enjoyed a nice visit with her, Tom and Pepper. Please stay well, Evelyn. There's a whole lotta summer left to enjoy.

A sweet friendship refreshes the soul.

Proverbs 27:9

Secretary, Terri Pizor



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

We will have Camp Sunday, August 22 at the ball field on Sunset. Bring a chair. We will have a Pot Luck lunch following service. The Worship Committee will provide beverages and table service. Bring a dish to share. If enough are present we will have a ball game following lunch. If you have other outdoor games bring them to share.

Janice McElhinny
Worship Committee Chair



Sacred Stirring

“Call to me and I will answer you.” — Jeremiah 33:3

God, whenever I feel confused or frightened, You reassure me with the stirring of Your spirit within my soul. Then Your presence surrounds me with a renewed sense of security.

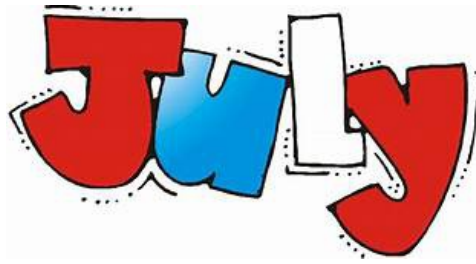
With that sacred stirring, dear God, my soul awakens to Your and longs to know more of You. I feel Your glory flowing through me as life and energy.

God, with You guiding me, I am renewed in purpose. My purpose is to live in your light and be an instrument through which Your life flows.

Each day is a new day in which I am aware of and commune with You. I feel the sacred stirring of Your spirit within my soul as the assurance of Your presence.

God's presence stirs within my soul.

*Grow
in Christ*



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 9:45 Prayer Time 10:00 Sun. Sch. 11:00 Worship | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 Joyce Youshock Church hall Terri Pizor Portico & Narthex |
| 11 9:45 Prayer Time 10:00 Sun. Sch. 11:00 Worship | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 9:45 Prayer Time 10:00 Sun. Sch. 11:00 Worship | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 9:45 Prayer Time 10:00 Sun. Sch. 11:00 Worship | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

Things work out best for those who make the best of the way things work out.

JULY



July

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|------------------------|
| 1 | Bob Carothers | 18 | Rusty & Tina Stuart |
| 4 | Bruce Martin | 19 | John & Kimberly Stoops |
| 7 | Sue Mahaffey | 21 | Dave & Linda Beatty |
| 8 | Linda Beatty | 27 | Mike & Abbey Novotny |
| 9 | Alex Hemmerlin | 28 | Paul & Carolyn Rizza |
| 10 | Bob McCreight | | |
| 11 | Carmen Cushing | | |
| 13 | Shawn Barger | | |
| 14 | Everett Novotny | | |
| 17 | Becky Dunkerley | | |
| 18 | Mary Stoops | | |
| 22 | Daniel Stoops | | |
| 26 | Sue Black | | |



*“Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up.”
Proverbs 12:25*

A THANK YOU

“Because of you, there’s someone who is thanking God today, someone who appreciates your warm and caring way, someone who’s remembering the special things you do. And wishing you His blessings every day the whole year through.”

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness in this difficult time. Your kindness has been a true blessing. I’ll always be grateful for your support. Most of all thank you for your prayers...

God Bless,
Diana Vatter & Family.
2510 Mercer Butler Pike
Grove City, PA 16127



Heaven

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, “How do you expect to get into heaven?”

The boy thought it over and said, “well, I’ll just run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St Peter Says, ‘For heaven’s sake, Jimmy, come in or stay out.’”



William James once told this delightful little story. A teacher asked a boy this question about fractions: Suppose your mother baked an apple pie and there were seven of you, your parents and five children. What part of the pie would be your portion?”

“A sixth,” answered the boy.

“But there are seven of you,” said the teacher. “Don’t you know anything about fractions?”

“Yes,” replied the boy, “I know about fractions, but I know about mothers, too. Mother would say she didn’t want any pie.”

Success in marriage depends upon a husband’s or wife’s each giving up his slice of pie for the other.

“Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.”

Proverbs 31:28



People of the Bible

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| K | Q | F | Q | N | I | V | S | H | D | R | A | M | B | G |
| E | M | C | O | K | O | G | R | A | Z | N | X | L | M | H |
| E | V | P | Y | J | A | M | H | J | M | Q | E | Z | N | S |
| R | L | P | A | B | A | J | O | I | M | S | I | Z | D | T |
| S | S | M | R | N | B | Y | G | L | A | A | O | J | A | R |
| D | E | I | J | O | R | N | F | E | O | N | R | N | V | E |
| S | E | S | T | A | A | B | T | Y | U | S | H | Y | I | T |
| L | K | H | O | H | H | S | U | S | E | J | Y | Q | D | E |
| L | H | A | J | M | A | Q | W | T | U | E | H | Q | M | P |
| E | P | X | H | N | M | D | P | B | P | P | V | A | V | I |
| J | O | S | H | U | A | A | D | A | E | V | D | E | X | E |
| Z | H | R | M | J | U | K | W | S | U | A | C | D | X | A |
| J | O | H | N | L | T | T | O | W | E | H | T | T | A | M |
| U | L | H | T | U | R | J | G | B | N | P | D | L | P | C |
| T | Q | F | R | V | F | K | S | J | Y | J | T | T | O | I |

| | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| ABRAHAM | ADAM | DAVID |
| ELIJAH | EVE | GABRIEL |
| JAMES | JESUS | JOHN |
| JOSEPH | JOSHUA | MARY |
| MATTHEW | MOSES | NOAH |
| PAUL | PETER | RUTH |
| SAMSON | SOLOMON | |

Bible Word Search:

NAMES AND TITLES OF JESUS

U Q O K A I S N S M T K R P M
V L F Z J T Y O A E E O A O R
O M G Y V O N T N Z I C B X K
Y D N Y M O E N U V A N B O A
D L O V F H T C A S I R I X R
E R I G W A R S P D S H E W E
N T O G B M A L I D O V Z N D
F D J L H Q Y V K R T T R Z E
I G Q R R T A E G T H V E P E
P B Y I H D S E K E U C T X M
T S W K F T Y A J I O Q S L E
L I I O N A M F O N O S A H R
V N N Q Z Y K V A D E J M V R
G O J E S U S E M M A N U E L
S V B G G W T Z T P B Q J F E

CHRIST

KING of the Jews

LORD

RABBI

SON OF DAVID

EMMANUEL

LAMB of God

MASTER

REDEEMER

SON OF GOD

JESUS

LIGHT of the World

NAZARENE

SAVIOR

SON OF MAN



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