



June 25, 2023

11:15 am

+Stand as you are able

Bold type--everyone reads

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Centering Music

+Call to Worship

L: Rejoice! God's love is poured out for you!

P: How awesome is God who showers us with love!

L: This is a day of celebration!

P: Let's celebrate God's mighty healing love.

L: It's time to worship!

P: We are ready! Amen.

Let us pray: **Holy God who created all that exists, we praise you. We open our hearts and our spirits this day to your eternal love and forgiving mercy. Be with us as we participate in this worship service. Remind us again that Jesus Christ gave his life that we might fully understand the depth and breadth of your love. In all things and at all times we praise you. Amen.**

+Hymn *For the Beauty of the Earth #14*

Prayers of Confession and Forgiveness

Praying the prayer of confession isn't always easy—especially as a group. We think, *But I haven't done those things!* That's why we confess together, then separately, silently. We confess together the brokenness of the Body and the institution, and separately for the things we know in our heart of hearts that we've done to hurt others, ourselves, or the world. So let us now, together and separately, seek the grace of God, let us pray:

God of Justice and Mercy, we know that we have fallen silent when we should have spoken up. We have ignored the cries of the innocent and joined the crowds in calls of judgment. We have mistaken justice for revenge and have sought punishment to ease our pain. Forgive us, God, for not seeing our own faults, our own sins, and for not holding ourselves responsible for our inaction and injustice. Restore us, God, to the ways Jesus taught us, to drop our stones and instead seek forgiveness and restoration. Call us into the paths of love and reconciliation, knowing Your mercy extends to all of us, Your grace is a gift, and there is nothing we can do to deserve or earn it. Guide us into living into Your forgiveness, peace and reconciliation, in the name of the Prince of Peace. (silent prayer)

L: Dear friends, listen to the good news! Christ came to give us new life; to redeem and heal our brokenness. As the Body and as individuals, we are made whole through his boundless love.

P: We are made whole through Christ! Thanks be to God! Amen.

Response of Praise *Glory to God v.1 #582*

Glory to God whose goodness shines on me, and to the son, whose grace has pardoned me, And to the Spirit whose love has set me free, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Am

Passing of the Peace

L: As God has forgives us, let us forgive one another: Peace be with you!

P: And also with you!

Anthem

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God, and prepare our hearts to accept your word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing, we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading **Genesis 21:8b-21** ⁸...Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.

⁹But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. ¹⁰So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." ¹¹The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. ¹²But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. ¹³As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring."

¹⁴So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beersheba. ¹⁵When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. ¹⁶Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. ¹⁷And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. ¹⁸Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." ¹⁹Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. ²⁰God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. ²¹He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Hymn *Great is Thy Faithfulness #39*

Gospel **Matthew 10:24-39** ²⁴"A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! ²⁶"So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰And even the hairs of your

head are all counted. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. ³⁴“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; ³⁶and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. ³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

Sermon

Responding to the Word

Affirmation of Faith

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

On this lovely day, at the end of the month of June, we praise and thank you, O Lord. We bring before you our gifts, our lives, our talents. Take all these gifts and use them for work in your kingdom. Bless the gifts and the givers of all gifts. Amen.

Response of Praise *In the Lord I’ll be Ever Thankful #653*

In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God, do not be afraid.

Lift up your voices; the Lord is near. Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the needs of the church, the whole human family, and all the world, saying: **Hear our prayer.**

That churches of all traditions may discover their unity in Christ and exercise their gifts in service of all, we pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

That the earth may be freed from war, famine, and disease, and the air, soil, and waters cleansed of poison, we pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

That those who govern and maintain peace in every land may exercise their powers in obedience to your commands, we pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

That you will strengthen this nation to pursue just priorities so that the races may be reconciled; the young, educated; and the old, cared for; the hungry, filled; and the homeless, housed; and the sick, comforted and healed, we pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

That you will preserve all who live and work in this community in peace and safety, we pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

That you will comfort and empower those who face any difficulty or trial: the sick, the disabled, the poor, the oppressed, those who grieve and those in prison, we pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

For those named in our service today, that they may feel your loving presence, we pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**
(Moment of silence)

Gracious God, continue to pour out your power in the church, in the world, and in our daily lives, so all will know that you are at work among us; through Jesus Christ, our living Lord. Hear us now as we pray the prayer Christ taught to his disciples: ***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.***

Taking the Word into the World

+Closing Hymn *Take My Life and Let It Be* #697

+Charge and Benediction

God has given you all that you will need as you reach out in love and caring to others. Go into God's world bringing the good news of redemption and hope. In Jesus' Name, go in peace and may the God of Peace go with you always. Amen.

Prayers from MinistryMatters.com and the PCUSA Book of Common Worship

Toll free conference call number (844) 855-4444, access code 654132#

Worship will also be connected through Facebook Live

COMMUNITY OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JUNE 25, 2023

Contact

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Scriptures for Sunday, July 2

Genesis 22:1–14
Psalm 13
Romans 6:12–23
Matthew 10:40–42

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Betty Murphy
Ruth Roeber
The McDermott family
Johanna Willis
The Kleier family
Jean Jennings' family
Emille Walden
Kelly Montana
Lynda Jaeger
Ron Carlin
Ella Grace Marksberry

Worship Services

Join us for in-person services at 710 Western Reserve Rd., Crescent Springs, KY. You can also worship with us online via Facebook Live, or by joining the conference call. Worship services begin at 11:15 am.

Liturgists Needed

Liturgists are needed to help lead worship. Please sign up on the sheet located on the welcome table. Thank you!

Treasurer Position Opening

The COF session is looking for a new Treasurer. The position of Treasurer is required by the Book of Order, and entails working with our accounting firm to pay bills, manage pledges and offerings, and report to session and the congregation regarding the finances of the congregation. Training will be provided. For further questions or a job description, please contact Rev. Sharon.