



July 16, 2023

11:15 am

+Stand as you able

Bold type--everyone reads

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Centering Music

+Call to Worship

Here in this space, we wear our hearts on our sleeves.

There is no use in filters or walls. This space is an authentic space.

This space is a brave space.

For when it comes to God, we are always invited to bring our full selves into the room.

So come into this space with your hurt and your joy, your prayers and your dreams.

All of God's children are welcome here.

Let us worship Holy God.

+Hymn *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit #408*

Prayers of Confession and Forgiveness

When we gather together we are quick to wave and say hello, to pass the peace, to comment on the weather, to make small talk and show hospitality; but how often do we go below the surface? How often do we sit next to the same people, week after week, oblivious to the things they might be carrying? Family of faith, I believe God wants deeper connection for us than that, so listen now to our prayer of confession and then join me in silent prayer following. Let us listen. Let us pray:

I've been meaning to ask...

How are you? What has your year been like? Did you know that I have been thinking of you?

I have been meaning to ask...

Is your mom okay? Did your sister find a job? Did you ever think we'd still be here?

I've been meaning to ask...

Did it get easier? Did the grief subside? Were you ever able to sleep at night?

I've been meaning to ask but I haven't—

Because it's hard. Because I want to say the right thing. Because I'm not sure what you need.

I've been meaning to ask, so I'm sorry for my silence.

Forgive me. Show me where it hurts. Let's start again.

Family of faith, we could all use some practice in asking where it hurts. Take a moment of silent prayer to think of the people in your world, in your lives, who may need you to reach out and ask.

Give their names to God. *(Pause for silent prayer.)*

Trusting that God hears all things, we say together: **Amen.**

Family of faith, in the journey to love and care for one another, we are bound to make mistakes. Fortunately for us, we worship a God who showed us how to love, and who extends grace to us when we fail to do so for others.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

We are seen. We are heard. We are loved. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God for this endless grace. Amen.

Response of Praise *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me 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.*

Passing of the Peace

As God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another: the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Special Music

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, Today we will read stories of those who have known hurt—people who have carried shame, who have lived with grief and chronic illness, who have felt alone and ignored, who have seen the depths of suffering. As we listen, we will be reminded of the hurt we have carried during these fragile days— memories and regrets co-mingling in our chests. And as we listen, we will be reminded that our neighbors, our siblings in faith, also come to this space carrying burdens. So dust off our ears and stretch open the canvases of our hearts so that in our pain, we might lean into one another as we lean into you. Pull us close. We are listening. Amen.

Gospel Reading Mark 5:21-43 ²¹When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. ²²Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³and begged him repeatedly, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.”²⁴So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” ²⁹Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” ³¹And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’” ³²He looked all around to see who had done it. ³³But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

³⁵While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?” ³⁶But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” ³⁷He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” ⁴⁰And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” ⁴²And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. ⁴³He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Hymn *For All the Faithful Women #324 (sung to tune 321)*

Scripture Reading I Samuel 1:1-18 There was a certain man of Ramathaim... ²He had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. ³Now this man used to go up year by year from his town to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the LORD. ⁴On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; ⁵but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb. ⁶Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. ⁷So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. ⁸Her husband Elkanah said to her, “Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?”

⁹After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the LORD. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. ¹⁰She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD, and wept bitterly. ¹¹She made this vow: “O LORD of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head.” ¹²As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. ¹³Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. ¹⁴So Eli said to her, “How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine.” ¹⁵But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. ¹⁶Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time.” ¹⁷Then Eli answered, “Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him.” ¹⁸And she said, “Let your servant find favor in your sight.” Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer.

Sermon

Responding to the Word

Affirmation of Faith

On my best days, I believe that God is there—standing in the sun with me, laughing a contagious laugh and cheering me on. On my hardest days, I believe that God is there—standing in the rain with me, holding me up and sharing in my grief. No matter where I go—in joy or in loss, in pain or in love, in heartache or in gratitude— I believe that God is there, leaning in, noticing where it hurts, and carrying me through it. And so, I believe we are called to care for each other as God cares for us. On your best days in the sun and on your worst days in the rain, I will do my best to be there for you too. Amen.

Offering Prayer of Thanks

Family of faith, it does not take long to look around the world and point out places of pain and suffering. This year has been hard for so many, but I do not believe that that pain will be the last word. When we give, we are not only supporting this congregation, but we are offering care to the broader community—leaning in, asking the hard questions, choosing connection, choosing generosity. It is these small acts of care, connection, and love that in time, can help heal the hurt in the world.

Thank you, God for the resources we have to give and use—our money, time and talents—for the work of this congregation both inside these walls and out in the community. Guide our use

of these things so that we may find that connecting place where our deep need to give and love and heal meets the worlds deep need for giving, loving and healing. Amen.

Response of Praise *In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful #654*

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

Holy God,

I know, *I know*, that you hear our prayers. You are the God of hospital rooms and graveside services. You are the God who felt a touch in a crowd. You are the God who sees and knows all pain—infertility and illness, despair and death. You are the God of the hurt and the healing, so I know—*I know*, you must hear us today. So with open hearts and open palms, gracious God, we come to you with our joy and our pain.

With joy, we give you thanks for all the blessings in our lives...

We have so much to be thankful for, and we know that you are part of all of that. And yet in that same breath, we also carry pain. Like Hannah in the temple, who brought you her prayer, like the hemorrhaging woman who pushed her way toward you in a crowd, we desperately need your ears, your grace, your healing touch.

So today we lift up to you all the hurt and pain we carry...

Holy God, we know, *we know*, that you are listening. We know, *we know*, that you are here, Be among us. Hold our hurt. Heal our wounds. Draw us closer to one another, and closer to you. With the hope of people who dream, we pray together using the words your son taught us. . .

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

+Song *Together We Serve #767*

+Charge and Benediction

Family of faith, as you leave this place, may God grant you the curiosity to counter assumptions, the vulnerability to befriend, the bravery to speak your truth, the wisdom to listen, the strength to ask for help, the resiliency to chose love, even when it's hard, and the awareness of the Holy Spirit always beside you. In the name of the Great Connector—Love itself, go in peace.

**Prayers by Rev. Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*

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

Worship will also be connected through Facebook Live

COMMUNITY OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JULY 16, 2023

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Scriptures for Sunday, July 23

Genesis 28:10–19a
Psalm 139:1–12, 23–24
Romans 8:12–25
Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

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.

Supporting the Work of the Presbytery and the Denomination with Per Capita

Per Capita is a fundamental way in which all of us, as members of the nearly 10,000 congregations and mid councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) connect, participate and share in the work of the wider church. Per capita is the primary source of funding for the Presbytery, as well as the Synod and General Assembly, and is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future. It is how Presbyterians are trained to become better ruling elders, teaching elders and deacons, and ministers. It is how Presbyterians are helped to discern God's call in their lives. It has supported our ministries at COF through grants to CLASP, Medical Debt Relief, and for equipment purchases for our virtual church services. Please prayerfully consider donating the \$34 per capital apportionment set by the Presbytery, for each church member. *(Adapted from the Presbytery of Cincinnati's newsletter.)*