

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602
540-662-1843 www.opequonchurch.org



SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2020

9:00 a.m.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*.....Arr. Paxton

[Notes on the Prelude-- This shape note tune appeared in the 1816 edition of "Kentucky Harmony", published by a Presbyterian elder in the Winchester Presbytery. It is likely named for a stream near Covington, Virginia. Sight may well be the sense on which we most depend. But 2 Corinthians 5:7 instructs us that faith is the more reliable guide.]

Please use this time to prepare your inward spirit for the worship of God.

†All who are able, please stand.

Bold print—all respond.

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

†ENTRANCE OF THE WORD AND THE LIGHT

†GATHERING SONG NO. 837 (vs. 1, 3) *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

CCLI#1622560

**What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Refrain **Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)**

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Come awake! The light of God is breaking through the darkness.

We bless the light, an unyielding sign of hope in times of trouble.

Do not fear! The love of Christ opens up a space of respite and peace for us.

We bless this place, a sanctuary of rest.

Delight in the gifts of the Spirit, who sets a table of welcome for all.

Surely goodness and mercy have found us here, in the house of our Lord, the God of abounding love.

†HYMN NO. 625 *How Great Thou Art*
CCLI#1622560

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed**

Refrain **Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"** (Refrain)

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we say we are sinless, we fool only ourselves and we are unable to speak the truth. In our brokenness, let us be honest and profess what separates us from God and one another, trusting in God's unchanging desire to forgive and renew.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Caring and compassionate Creator, we have failed to see you in other places and in the faces of other people. We have repressed differing visions of Your love because they are not our own. We have ignored your beautiful world that surrounds us in the grandeur of the mountains, in the expanse of the plains, in the vastness of the big sky. We have failed to understand and love one another as you have called us to understand and love. Often, we have turned our backs on you only to face in the direction of our own self-interests. We have

been shortsighted and humbly we ask your forgiveness. Help us to turn back to you, God, to reach toward your wishes for us and to look for Christ's reflection in those around us. Let us learn from one another as we look for value in ideas that might send us in differing paths, through Christ our Lord.

MOMENTS OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

There is no greater joy in God's heart than this moment right now! For in this moment we call upon the Holy One to grant us new life. It is with the greatest joy that God grants us mercy and makes us whole once again. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and blessed by God's grace. With great joy we are made alive! Amen.

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

†THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE NO. 458 *Thy Word is a Lamp unto My Feet*

CCLI#1622560

Refrain **Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

**When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way,
still you're there right beside me.**

Nothing will I fear as long as you are near.

Please be near me to the end. (Refrain)

†PASSING OF THE PEACE (Please share this prayer with those near you.)

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC..... *Litany to the Holy Spirit*

Barbara Rupert

In the hour of my distress, When temptations me oppress, And when I my sins confess, Sweet Spirit, comfort me! Comfort me! When I lie within my bed, Sick in heart and sick in head, And with doubts discomfited, Sweet Spirit, comfort me! Comfort me! When the house doth sign and weep, And the world is drowned with sleep, Yet mine eyes the watch do keep, Sweet Spirit, comfort me! Comfort me!

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Psalm 119:105-112

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

A SPECIAL TIME WITH ALL GOD'S CHILDREN!....."Fireflies"

†HYMN NO. 749 *Come! Live in the Light*

CCLI#1622560

**Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.**

Refrain **We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.**

**Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love.** (Refrain)

SERMON "A Walk in the Dark"

Tracie Martin, Parish Associate

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY *The Light That Shines in Darkness*Arr. Peterson

[Notes on the Offertory-- Gerald Peterson's composition has no lyrics. But the seven syllables in the title are a good fit for the seven notes of the opening measures. The phrase is repeated over and over—much like a mantra. The light that shines in darkness... The light that shines in darkness...)

†THE DOXOLOGY (Hymnal No. 606) AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Hymnal p. 35, we say "debts" and "debtors" in the prayer)

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

†HYMN NO. 463 *How Firm a Foundation*
CCLI#1622560

**How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."**

†CHARGE AND BLESSING

†CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE NO. 69 (Refrain) *Here I Am, Lord*
CCLI#1622560

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

†POSTLUDE *Epilogue*.....Martin

[Notes on the Postlude – It would be a stretch to call this organ piece a song. There are only snatches of melody scattered through semi-organized clusters of mostly dissonant chords. But I like it, and it really showcases the rich pedal notes.]

THE SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Linda Bock in memory of her husband, Steven Bock, and in honor of their 51st wedding anniversary.

THE ROSE IN THE SANCTUARY

The rose in the Sanctuary announces the birth of Jaxson Blaine Metheny, son of Lauren and Ross Metheny, who was born on Monday, July 6. Lynn and Jerry Metheny are the proud grandparents; Carole Metheny is the proud great-grandmother. We rejoice with the Metheny family on this gift of new life and pray for Jaxson and his parents.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Dave Zarefoss | Grocery Workers | Ed & Esther Duetsch |
| Belinda Burton | Essential Workers | Mark Wilhelm |
| Bonnie Cummins | Schools | Katie Teets |
| Jackie Boyd Family | Funeral Homes | TK Tandy III |
| Kent & Lee Dittman | Families | Dan Thompson |
| Gary Pierce | Older Adults | Division in Our Country |
| Becky Proctor | Food Banks | Joe Lingo |
| Andrew Oliver | Homeless | Brad Treece |
| Denise Musgrave | Underemployed & Unemployed | Patricia Ferguson |
| Faye Myers | Megan Galloway | Women & Children of Domestic |
| Donna & Tom Messerschmidt | Lisa Shade-Snip | Violence |
| Adam Branch Hoover | Bobby Hudnall | Families of Children, Youth & |
| Racial Injustice | Frances Pitcock | Young Adults with Special |
| Bonnie Wilfong | Sue Lee | Needs |
| Amy Lou Haake | Julia Long | Jim Butler |
| Duke Cutshall | Lanette Orduna | Tom Gano |
| Donna Royston Skowronski | Paul Ebersole | Disaster Relief Agencies |
| Riana Wilhelm | Colleen McMurdo | Kes Mersha |
| Noah Porter | Lyn White | Jane Lewis |
| Arthur deButts | Nancy Kerns | Doug Koch |
| James Brown | Edgar Tufts | Illubabor Bethel Synod of |
| Larissa Strosnider | Nathan Windle | Church Mekane Yesus |
| Dave Johnson | Mike Shade | Rachel & Michael Weller |
| Coronavirus | Associate Pastor Nominating | Doug Dicks |
| First Responders | Committee (APNC) | |
| Healthcare Workers | Casey Carr | |

PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY SERVICE

Joshua Blake, Max Crane, Andrew Crane, Thomas Crane, Edison Gomez, Taylor McMurdo, Samuel & Julia Phillips, Brandon Michael, Jared Snawder, Greg Sousa, Katherine Tufts, Michael White, and their families.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 12-19, 2020

TODAY

- 9:00 am: Livestreamed Morning Worship
10:30 am: Spiritual Growth Faith Formation Class via Zoom
11:00 am: In-Person Worship (**Please Note Restrictions, including Required Reservations**)
12:15 pm: Safe Church Education Session via ZOOM
6:30 pm: Outdoor Worship—Pitcock Shelter & Field
(**Please Note Restrictions**)

THIS WEEK

- Monday: Men of Opequon—6:00 pm—Pitcock Memorial Shelter
Wednesday: Newsletter Deadline
"Snackin' & Chattin'" via ZOOM—12:00 Noon
Thursday: Tai Chi—1:00 pm—Pitcock Memorial Shelter
Friday: Collector's Show & Tell via ZOOM—1:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

- Livestreamed Morning Worship—9:00 am
Spiritual Growth Faith Formation Class via Zoom—10:30 am
In-Person Worship—11:00 am
(**Reservations Required—Please Note Restrictions**)
Genesis 28:10-19a, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Sermon: "Them and Us"

SAFE CHURCH EDUCATION SESSION

The Laurel Center will present another Safe Church Education Session today at 12:15 pm via Zoom. Click on link emailed out this week. The topic is, "How Sexual Offenders Groom Children: What Every Adult Needs to Know." Parents, staff, & volunteers working with children/youth are encouraged to attend. Please note this topic is not suitable for younger children.

VACATION FOR THE WITTS

Carole and David Witt are on vacation through July 19th. If a pastoral concern arises, please contact Parish Associate Tracie Martin at 304-856-2080 or 315-247-5969.

TONIGHT, JULY 12

6:30 pm

WOW!

Wonderful Outdoor Worship at the Picnic Shelter/Lawn

- Approximately 40 minutes in length
- Please bring your own lawn chairs
- Restrictions Will Apply: Minimum 6' social distancing; no singing; no restrooms on the property will be available; have a mask available for unanticipated interaction less than 6'
- No advance registration required.
- You will be directed where to park and will sit in front of your vehicle.
- Weather Permitting

Outdoor worship at 6:30 pm on Sunday evenings – July 26, August 9, & August 23

MEN OF OPEQUON MEET TOMORROW

The Men of Opequon (MOO) will meet at the Pitcock Memorial Shelter at 6:00 pm, practicing social distancing. Please bring your own dinner from Chick-fil-A, home, or elsewhere. Let us enjoy seeing each other in person and sharing conversation while eating our own meal. All men are invited!

RE-ENTRY PLAN DETAILS

9:00 am Livestreamed Full Worship Service (only Worship Team present)

- ✓ Our current livestreamed worship will be available to you at 9:00 am or any time after
- ✓ This is the service that the congregational surveys overwhelmingly indicated must be our priority and must continue as is.

11:00 am In-Person Worship (limited to 75 people)

- ✓ 45-minute service with restrictions for all worshipers
- ✓ Minimum 6' social distancing at all times inside the building

- ✓ No social interaction inside the building
- ✓ Wearing face masks mandatory for entrance to the building and must always be worn in the building; if you do not wear a face mask, you will be asked to go home and livestream.
- ✓ No congregational singing or spoken responses
- ✓ Advanced registration and reserved seating required for worship EACH WEEK through phone call or Sign-Up Genius. Please call Rebekah Witt at 540-686-0752 for phone reservations on Monday or Tuesday. The Sign-Up Genius link will be emailed by the church office on Tuesday afternoons. **You will need to register again every week.**
- ✓ Limited seating capacity in Sanctuary (75)
- ✓ Printed bulletins on pews
- ✓ Restrooms available one person at a time
- ✓ No Nursery provided.
- ✓ We would strongly encourage those who are most compromised and those who are not able to adhere to the restrictions to stay home, stay safe, and worship with us through livestream.

NEWCOMERS' CLASS

We will try something new and have a Newcomers' Class at the Pitcock Memorial Shelter on Monday, July 20 at 6:30 pm. We will maintain social distancing. This class is for those who are new to Opequon or who have not been able to attend a class previously. If you would like to attend, please call the church office at 662-1843 or email office@opequonchurch.org. We want to make the necessary preparations for the class.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

This week, we were able to donate 18 pounds to the Highland Food Pantry. If you are interested in helping water or deliver produce, the SignUpGenius page can be found on the home page of the church's website. There are delivery slots open starting July 14 and slots to maintain the garden starting with the week of July 27. New volunteers are always welcome! If you have any questions, please contact a lead gardener or the garden administrator at graysonmoyer7@gmail.com.

COLLECTOR'S SHOW AND TELL

All are invited to join our Zoom group "Collector's Show and Tell" as we share what we collect and how we got started collecting. Our Zoom meeting will be this Friday, July 17, at 1:00 p.m. The meeting notice will be sent out this week via the church e-mail. If you have questions please contact Becky Proctor at beckyproc@comcast.net.

YOUR OFFERING—THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

- ✓ **Mail it** to Opequon Church, 217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602
- ✓ **Drop it** by the church by calling ahead and ringing the doorbell upon arrival. You can use the mail slot in the door (that leads to the Dell Room) after hours.
- ✓ **Set it up** through an on-line banking transfer with your local bank. You may specify the amount and the day you want your contribution sent to OPC, just like the bills you pay on-line. The advantages are convenience, time savings, and for many forgetfulness.
- ✓ **Click it** on the Donate Now button on the church website.

OUTREACH THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Opequon's engagement in mission is strong! Your food, in-kind, and financial donations are appreciated and may be brought to the church during weekly office hours. Bins are located outside. We are especially supporting...

- Our Motel Ministry—There is a need for donations such as dish sponges, dish soap, laundry detergent pods, dryer sheets, tooth brushes, toothpaste, razors, shaving cream, cracker packs, granola bars, oatmeal packs, boxes of easy mac & cheese, and ramen noodle packs.
- Highland Food Pantry (non-perishables)
- Sherando Food Pantry (canned chicken, canned chili with meat, canned spaghetti & meatballs, canned fruit & vegetables, soup, dry cereal)
- Bright Futures, feeding the children of Winchester and Frederick County (e.g. 100% Juice Boxes, granola bars, cup of soups, cracker packs, boxes of oatmeal packets)

SIZZLING SUMMER SUNDAY: JULY 26TH

On Sunday, July 26, families are invited to come enjoy the outdoor SIZZLING Summer activities. There will be wading pools, water balloons, a sprinkler, corn hole, croquet, sidewalk chalk, bubbles, hula hoops, basketball, and badminton all

set up around the church for kids to enjoy at their own pace as it is all self-guided. Cold drinks and Popsicles will be provided for self-service. **All this fun will be available 2:00-5:00 pm on July 26.** Parents are asked to stay with their children. No other adult supervision is provided. A summer devotional page will be provided for families to take as you leave for some follow up conversation at home. Please understand that access to restrooms will not be available during the SIZZLING Summer Fun activities.

GLOW: GOD-LOVING OPEQUON WOMEN

GLOW is NOT meeting this month. We will be back together on Tuesday, August 11 at 6:00 pm in the Pitcock Memorial Shelter with our bag dinners; sharing in devotional time and looking at a 'Women's Group Idea List'.

WORSHIP NOTES AND REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

- When you think about being in the dark, is there music that helps you?
- How did today's music help you think about the darkness of spirit that seems to be present in today's world?

Notes on Today's Children's Sermon

- Do you remember catching fireflies? Do children around you still try to catch them?
- Would the light of a single firefly keep you awake?

Notes on Today's Prayers

Were you comfortable silently adding the names of those who were dear to you as you prayed?

Notes on Today's Scripture and Sermon

- What is the ultimate source of our understanding of God's will for us?
- How can God's rules for our lives make us stronger?
- How can you help others see and use their lives as good gifts?