

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 15, 2018 • 10 a.m.

Prelude

King David's Dance
Stephen Paulus

Victoria Shields

Call to Worship

One: This is the day our God has made!

All: **We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Michael Piazza

**** Opening Hymn**

Come Sing to God



Come sing to God, O liv - ing saints; sing prais - es to God's name. God's
In my suc - cess I felt se - cure; how good you've been to me. I
What good is gained by my dis - grace, what prof - it in de - feat? My
You change my grief to joy-filled dance; my sor - rows you de - stroy. In



an - ger is not per - ma - nent; God's love will nev - er wane. Though
said that this is my own work, as - scrib - ing all to me. But
grave can - not con - fess your name, nor praise for you re - peat. Now
faith - ful - ness you hear my cry and fill my life with joy. And



tears may tar - ry for the night with sighs of deep - est pain, yet
when you turned a - side your face, my life was filled with fears. I
hear, O Lord, my plain - tive cry; be mer - ci - ful to me. Ac -
so to you my heart shall sing; my voice your good - ness raise. You



joy comes with the morn - ing sun, a peace that is not vain.
begged for help; to you I cried with loud and bit - ter tears.
cept my long - ing heart's re - quest and from death set me free.
are my God, for - ev - er - more. My life shall sing your praise.

**** Invocation**

(* * The people will rise in body or spirit.)

Time of Honesty and Reflection

Time of Confession

Silence

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: In the name of Jesus the Christ, you are forgiven!

All: In the name of Jesus the Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

**** Exchange of Peace**

Epistle Lesson

2 Samuel 6:12-19

Special Music

**** Gospel Lesson**

Mark 6:14-29

One: Please rise in body or spirit in reverence to the words of Jesus.

Here what the Spirit is saying to the church

All: We listen for a word from God:

King Herod heard of Jesus and the disciples, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and, for this reason, these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod, on his birthday, gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

One: Hear this ancient witness from yesterday.

All: May the Word become flesh in us today!

**** Gloria**

Glory to God

Paul M. Vasile



Glo - ry to God, whose good-ness shines on me, and to the Son, — whose grace has
World without end, with-out end, A-men. World with-out end, — with - out



par - doned me, and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free. As it
end, A - men. World with-out end, with - out end, A - men.



was in the be-gin - ning, is now and ev-er shall be, A - men.

Sermon

Footloose

**** Hymn of Response**

Siyahamba

South African Hymn by Andries Van Tonder

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching. Ooh, ooh, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching. Ooh, ooh, we are marching in the light of God.

v. 2 We are walking ...

v. 3 We are praying ...

v. 4 We are dancing ...

Offering

Pivot Ministries

Please register your attendance on the welcome card located near the center aisle and then pass it down the row. If you are here for the first time, please give us your address and email address so we can send you information about the church and stay in touch with you.

Offertory

**** Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise Jesus Christ and in God grow,

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Praise to the Holy Spirit give,

That we with God in love may live.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**** Closing Hymn***Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,
the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—
The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,
the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.
The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now
reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.
Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing
to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

**** Charge and Blessing****** Response***Siyahamba***We are dancing in the light of God ...****** Ringing the Church Bell****Postlude***Allegro from Sonata No. V, BWV 529*

J.S. Bach

All are invited to enjoy a continental breakfast and time of community hosted by the deacons on the terrace off the common room, which is down the hall and on the left.

Come Sing to God, text: Fred R. Anderson, tune: *Ellacombe*; *Glory to God*, traditional liturgical text, adapted by Paul M. Vasile, 2008, music: Paul M. Vasile, 2008; *Siyahamba*, text: South African; English translation Gracia Grindal, 1984, music: South African; arr. *Freedom is Coming*, 1984; *Doxology*, tune: *Lasst uns Erfreuen*, text: Brian Wren, 1989; *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*, text: Omer Westendorf, 1964, music: *The Ash Grove*.

TODAY AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW CANAAN

Welcome to the service of worship for the Lord's Day. **Summer worship continues through September 2.** Many of us are traveling or living elsewhere for the summer, but, if all who are in town will make an effort to be here each Sunday, we can have an amazing spiritual adventure. **Services, which, as always, begin at 10 a.m.,** will be a bit more relaxed, so you can dress more comfortably. We are going to practice laughing and loving in the presence of God each week. Parents of **infants through age four** are encouraged to take their children to the nursery school classrooms during worship. **Students in PreK and up remain in worship with their families.** Activity packets are available in the back of the church. All are invited to join us following worship at 11:15 a.m. for a continental breakfast provided by our deacons on the terrace located off the common room, which is down the hall and to the left.

Greeters: Tom and Lynn Quinn

Ushers: Drew Gurley and Caroline Turpin

Worship Coordinator: Jim Ely

Refreshments: Sarah Robinson

The flowers this morning are given in loving memory of Maxine Mackle by her family. If you wish to have flowers in the sanctuary to celebrate an anniversary, a baptism, a birthday, or to memorialize a beloved family member or friend, please contact Barbara Wentzel, Flower Coordinator, at 203-966-5402 or barbarawentzel@mac.com.

Digital Evangelism We invite you to become a "digital evangelist" by taking a moment now, before silencing or turning off your smartphone, to check in on Swarm and Facebook. Leave a tip or thought about what First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan means to you. Snap a picture of the sanctuary or a selfie of you and your family or friends and post to Instagram and use #FPCNC. This afternoon, if you have not already, be sure to "Like" our Facebook page (facebook.com/FPCNC) and follow us on Instagram (FPCNC). Then, as you ponder the sermon, take a moment to post an idea to your page that challenged or uplifted you, letting your friends know they can join you in worship next Sunday at 10 a.m. Someone who sees it is sure to need a word of grace. See how easy it is to offer one?

NEWS & NOTES

Break the Ice! Get to know fellow members of our community of faith at an informal gathering at a host house. Please feel free to bring a friend, too. **Our next icebreaker will be at the home of Charlie and Sarah Robinson (4 Carter Street) NEXT Saturday, July 21, at 6:30 p.m.** You can park on the Mounted Troop side of the road. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre to share and something to drink. For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Lisa Gifford, our elder in charge of congregational life, at 203-594-9826 or ldagbg@aol.com.



The Abo Noktah Family Last Sunday during worship, Elder Lynn Jackson Quinn offered an update about the Abo Noktah family, the Syrian refugees whom, along with First Presbyterian Church of Stamford (Fish Church), we have been helping since 2016. Today, we share some background information and additional updates, including some unsettling news from Syria.



Khaldoun Abo Noktah's parents relax in their new tent before their camp was broken down.

The father, Khaldoun, is from the heavily contested Dara'a province, which led the Abo Noktahs to relocate many years ago first to a Jordanian refugee camp and later to Connecticut. Khaldoun's parents and other family members remain in the region, and their village of Tafas was fundamentally destroyed when bombings resumed earlier this month, leaving them and thousands of others to live in open fields along the Jordanian border. Funds were sent from Connecticut to purchase a simple tent and cooking supplies, but these rudimentary settlements were broken down earlier this week by Syrian and Russian troops. Khaldoun's parents now are trying to create shelter among the remains of their home compound. Fortunately, they were able to return with supplies and a gas tank, so, for now, they have food and water and a means to cook. To restore peace, they and their neighbors are complying with government demands.

Khaldoun repeatedly has expressed his profound gratitude to our two churches for this truly vital support for his family in Syria. He is understandably deeply concerned but continues to work two part-time jobs to provide for his family. Mother Khwala cheerfully keeps house and cooks, and the four children are enjoying another wonderful summer at Horizons, an intensive six-week program designed to help shrink the educational achievement gap they may be experiencing. We invite you to pray for the entire Abo Noktah family as we continue to seek ways to support those who have joined us in the United States and those they have left behind.

New Canaan Food Pantry: Items in need now due to low/no stock are Parmalat, dry milk, applesauce, brownies, canned fruit, pancake mix (add water only), syrup, jelly, pasta sauce, decaf coffee, and canned stew. **No beans or soup are needed at this time.** Please drop these items in the shopping cart at the back of the sanctuary, and we will make sure they are delivered to the New Canaan Food Pantry.

Cents-ability On Sunday, July 1, we collected \$136 for Cents-Ability, a small first step in the battle against hunger and poverty. We invite members of all ages in our congregation to contribute a few cents at every meal to be donated at our monthly collection. This simple act is an expression of thanks for what we have received. It is also a commitment to share with others in response to Jesus' command, "You give them something to eat." When members bring their offerings to church on the appointed Sunday, all those coins "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" as they are received and dedicated. Our total collection since we began Cents-Ability in November 2011 is \$19,251. Thank you for your awareness and generous response to hunger. If you would like more information on Cents-Ability or need a Cents-Ability cup, please call the church office at 203-966-0002. Remember to fill your cup 'til it runneth over! **Our next collection is Sunday, August 5.**



No Gift Too Small! The Bell Tower Society, which allows members of the community and our congregation to bequeath enduring statements of faith, welcomes gifts and bequests of all sizes. Every dollar given makes a difference in serving the long-term welfare of our church. If you have questions about remembering the church in your estate plans, please contact our acting office administrator, Jim Beall, in the church office at 203-966-0002.



Summer Music! Do you sing or play an instrument? If so, we would love for you to share your talents in worship this summer! Our summer musicians are a special part of the life of FPCNC and are always a blessing to our congregation. For more information, please email our music director, Victoria Shields, at victoria@fpcnc.org.

Summer Office Hours: Through August 31, the church office will be open Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and on Fridays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

DEACON MINISTRIES

Baptisms: The deacons at FPCNC help to welcome the families of children or adults being baptized. This is a ministry of welcome, hospitality, and care. One of our deacons will welcome the family on the chosen Sunday, help them get comfortable in the common room, offer them a beverage, let them know that the minister will meet with them before the service begins, and direct them where to sit in the sanctuary. Deacons also help by taking photos for the family and for the church office. If you would like to learn more about baptisms at our church, please do not hesitate to speak with the pastor or contact the church office for further information.



Memorial Services: Assistance for memorial receptions is a central ministry of service for the deacons at FPCNC. Given the grief and stress on families and the planning needed for a reception, the deacons share in the responsibility to assist at these events. Deacons work through the church office in reaching out to the family to ask how they can be of assistance with any reception set up, food and beverages, and other important details. Deacons assist during memorial services to help ensure the family receives the support and help they need. To learn more about memorial services, please speak with our pastor or inquire at the church office.

Stewardship: Thank you all so much for your GREAT response to the recent appeal from Associate Pastor Rev. Kibbie Laird and Clerk of the Session Scott Beyer. Many of you already stepped up and generated incremental and new pledges and gifts. We're incredibly grateful to the families and individuals who so quickly contributed an additional \$81,000, bringing us up to \$763,000. This puts us within reach of our \$800,000 goal for the 2018 operating budget. We're not quite there yet, however, and great First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan programs and services are still in jeopardy. If there's any way you can consider an additional pledge for 2018, please contact the church office at 203-966-0002 to be put in touch with Barbara Wentzel, our stewardship chair, or Armin Thies. You also may visit fpcnc.org/stewardship to pledge or donate electronically TODAY! Every donation and pledge are a blessing to this congregation and its mission, as are you.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

178 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan, CT 06840

203-966-0002 / fpcnc.org

SUNDAY, JULY 15

SATURDAY, JULY 21

**10 a.m. Pivot Ministry Worship Service
with Rev. Dr. Michael Piazza**

9:15 a.m. A.A. (closed)

10:30 a.m. A.A. (open)

11:15 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic in the
Parlor

11:15 a.m. Continental Breakfast and
Fellowship

SUNDAY, JULY 22

**10 a.m. Worship Service and
Sacrament of Baptism
with Rev. Dr. Michael Piazza**

TUESDAY, JULY 17

11:15 a.m. Continental Breakfast and
Fellowship

10 a.m. Leadership Team

7 p.m. Session Meeting

8 p.m. Men's A.A.

OUR MINISTERS

The Entire Congregation

OUR PASTORS

The Rev. Dr. Michael S. Piazza, Interim Pastor

The Rev. Kathryn Kibbie Laird, Associate Pastor

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies, Parish Associate

The Rev. Christopher G. Tate, Parish Associate

OUR STAFF

Victoria Shields, Director of Music / Sherry Tate, Cherub Choir director

Jim Beall, Acting Church Administrator / Tina St. Armand, Office Manager

Erika Hagan, Administrative Assistant to Children and Youth Ministries

Edgar Torres, Day Sexton / Jonathan Roos and Kate Stringfellow, Operations Managers

The Rev. T. Guthrie Speers, Jr., Pastor Emeritus - Mrs. Marilyn J. Ballantine, Minister of Music Emerita

Let us keep in our thoughts and prayers: *Continued concerns:* Catherine Armstrong; Grace Chung; Graham Harden; Bob Jackson; William Boyd Kegg; Vince Lombardi; Jim Mierendorf; Alanna Ruszkowski; The Stricos family (friends of Joe and Diana Ruszkowski); Betsy Stewart (Jim and Denise Riehl's niece); Poppy Stewart (Tucker Murphy's grand-niece). The Abo Noktah family (our Syrian refugees): father Khaldoun, mother Khawla Alzob, daughters Hanin and Zain, and sons Yaman and Ahmed.

