First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan

Reformation Sunday • October 25, 2020 • 10 a.m.
178 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan, CT 06840 • 203-966-0002 • FPCNC.ORG

Creating a loving and just world by serving others.

THE GATHERING

Prelude Sonata No. 6 in D Minor, Op.65 Felix Mendelssohn

Call to Worship

The Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr

Minister: We affirm that God is our refuge and strength,

People: a very present help in trouble.

Minister: In Christ we are set free through faith.

People: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in

the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam...

Minister: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

People: We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit who gives us peace even when the nations are in an uproar and kingdoms totter. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob, Rachel, and

Leah, is our refuge.

Minister: Come, behold the works of God, the desolations God has brought on the earth. God makes wars

cease to the end of the earth; breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; God burns the shields with fire.

People: We come now to be still before the Lord, and to worship and exalt the God of grace, love and

peace among the nations. The Lord is with us and is our refuge!

--Adapted from the Psalm of the day, 46



Confession of Sin Cindy Graziano

Leader: On this Reformation Sunday, we celebrate the doctrine of grace—the unmerited, unconditional love of God that reaches out to us even before we reach out to God. And as our ancestor, John Calvin once affirmed, the knowledge of God begins with knowledge of ourselves. To know ourselves is to know our places of brokenness. And to know God is to know that in Christ, God's love stretches so deep and wide that it permeates every broken place in our lives and world. God knows us and yet will never turn away from us. So with confidence, let us confess our sin and brokenness, trusting in God's grace and forgiveness. Let us pray...

People: Living God, You are the One who is always on the move, always creating and re-creating, always doing a new thing. And yet, we confess, O Lord, that our lives can become static, routinely paralyzed by doubt and fear. We remain stuck in patterns of greed, covetousness, and self-interest. We doubt your promises of abundant, everlasting life and so we live in dread of our neighbours, our friends, and our enemies. Our souls remain still. We do not love as you love. Nor do we live as you would have us live, with courage, generosity or in the freedom of the gospel. So in the silence of our hearts, we confess to you our sin, and those things we have done that we ought not to have done, and those we have left undone that we ought to have done.

(silence)

Leader: In Jesus' name we pray.

People: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, the good news of the gospel is that God's love in Christ stretches so deep and so wide that it

permeates every broken place in our hearts and world.

People: Our hatred is met with love, our cruelty is met with compassion, our sins and our trespasses are

met with forgiveness.

Leader: It is greater than anything you have ever done, or could do. Open your hearts to let the love of God

in, because in Christ you are forgiven, freed, and made new. So hear and believe the good news:

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new! Amen!

Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

(*Please greet one another with a sign of the peace of Christ.*)

THE WORD

Prayer For Illumination (unison)

Cindy Graziano

Holy One, we prefer that you give us rules and security. And yet, You call us forth to a risky world-changing faith and freedom in Christ! Your Word is explosive and energizes us for all that is good, true and life-giving. By the power of your Spirit shine more light from your Word into our lives, causing our hearts to beat again with your freedom, grace and love. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

First Lesson - Romans 3:19-28

Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson – John 8:31-36

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

Minister: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "But now..." The Rev. Scott Herr

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People The Rev. Scott Herr

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes, Offerings and Ourselves

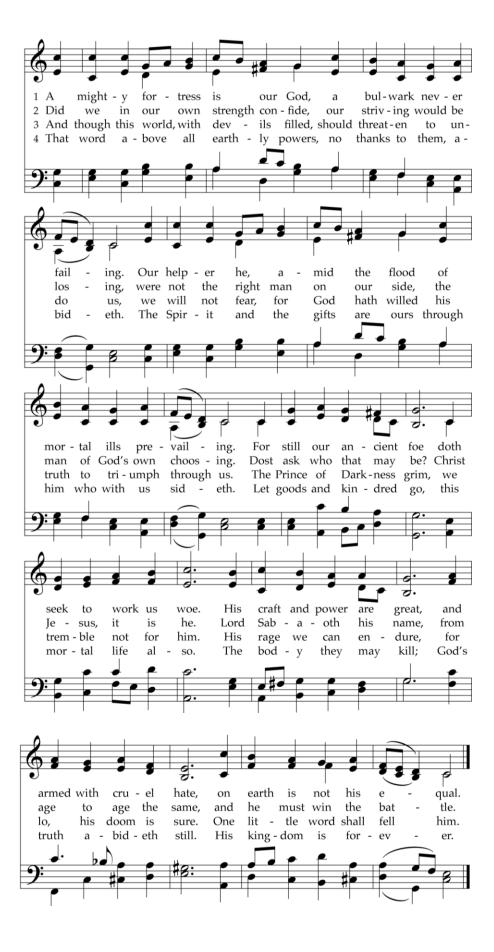
Cindy Graziano

OffertoryVerleih uns Frieden
John Howell, soloist
Felix Mendelssohn

Grant us your peace, O loving Lord, our Rock and firm foundation.
Our faith is in your excellent word, speaking to every nation.
Your promise of sure salvation.

Prayer of Dedication Cindy Graziano

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



Ringing of the Church Bell

Postlude

Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott, BWV 720

J.S. Bach

CCLI #1120652 ONE LICENSE, License A-734274

Welcome! This morning, Rev. Scott Herr invites you to reflect on our Reformation heritage and what it means for us to be a church "reformed and always reforming" through the lectionary texts of Romans 3:19-28 and John 8:31-36.

All Saint's Sunday, November 1. During our 10 a.m. liturgy, we will remember those members and friends who have passed away from November 2019 to November 2020. Following the worship service, our candlelight processional will be led out of the sanctuary to the Memorial Garden and Columbarium. Please call the church office (203) 966-0002 if you have names of loved ones you would like to include in the liturgy that day.





All are invited on Sunday, November 8, at 3:00 p.m. for the service of installation of the Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr as Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan. Please see our website for link to be posted the week prior.

Please consider volunteering to help with our Sunday service. We at First Presbyterian of New Canaan are always eager to share our talents and get to know one another better by participating in our services of worship. Please utilize this link to see all of the volunteer opportunities over the next couple months. https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4aaaad2aa31-sunday

Children's Worship Volunteers needed. If you were there for the 10:00 worship service on the lawn recently, you would have been delighted to see our youth leaders take the younger children off for a Bible study lesson and playground time during the sermon. I am so impressed with the gifts and commitment of our youth. They are signing up to lead children's worship time during the 10:00 service for the coming weeks, but they need our support. Are you a parent of young children, and would you be willing to sign up for one Sunday a month to help out with Children's worship (for ages pre-K-5th grade)? You will go with the children to the playground from the sermon time until you hear the bell ring (just like school!) and then rejoin with the rest of the congregation. If you are interested and willing to help out, please leave a message with Augie Kelliher, augie.k.999@gmail.com. We will confirm a date and equip you so that you are comfortable leading/helping to make sure our children are safe and cared for (the leaders are mandated to wear masks) during the adult sermon time. THANK YOU!

Your 2020 Pledges Are Still Needed! Just a friendly reminder that our church continues to operate, albeit in new and creative ways, to continue to serve our congregation during the COVID-19 pandemic. And so too, your pledges are still needed to sustain those operations, so please mail them to the attention of Jim Riehl, FPCNC, 178 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan, CT, 06840.



Youth News: What is happening at FPC for our MSYG and HSYG. All are welcome!

Touch Tre was to happening at TT e for our what is a different well-offer.	
Date and Time	Event
November 7: 2pm – 6 pm	Cooking and Serving Dinner at New Covenant House
November 15: 3 pm – 4:30 pm	Meet for cocoa, coffee and conversation
December 5: 2pm – 6 pm	Cooking and Serving Dinner at New Covenant House
November 13: 3 pm – 4:30 pm	Meet for cocoa, coffee and conversation
Some night before Christmas Eve	Caroling to members of FPCNC!





Facebook Concerts Thursday Nights on the FPC Facebook Page! This week tune in to our Facebook page for weekly concerts beginning at 6pm! Featuring friends from FPC, we will be presenting short 15-20 minute concerts to help us stay connected musically and keep our spirits up during this time. If you are interested in participating as a performer (it'll be very informal and comfortable!), please contact Victoria Shields at Victoria@fpcnc.org. Children are welcome to participate as well! And you don't need a Facebook account to participate! Go to www.facebook.com/FPCNC

Join us for Monster Bash on next week's FPC Thursday Facebook concert! Organists Victoria Shields, Leslie Smith from Round Hill Community Church, Greenwich, and Clair Rozier from St. David's Episcopal Church, Wayne, PA will be playing scary and fun organ music in this year's online edition of Monster Bash. We hope you will join us on Thursday, October 29th at 6pm at https://www.facebook.com/FPCNC/



Cents-Ability is a program of Presbyterian Mission and a small first step in the battle against hunger and poverty. We invite worshipers of all ages 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 and 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, the coins "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" as they are received and dedicated. If you would like more information or need a Cents-Ability cup, please call the church office at (203) 966-0002. Our next collection is Sunday, November 1.





Apparently, there have been reports of people in the area who have had their ballots stolen out of their mailboxes! Sarah and Charlie Robinson have offered to give people who do not drive a ride to the ballot box at Town Hall so that they can drop it off at a secure location. Please call Sarah if you would like assistance in making sure your vote counts: (203) 554-5888. The GetAbout is offering rides to the voting polls. Their contact number to reserve a ride is (203) 972-7433.

Guidelines for In-Person Worship Service

On the advice of a Planning Team of Elders, Administration and Lay with our Pastor, the Rev. Scott Herr, we are offering weekly in-person worship begins Today! This will entail live coverage via LocalLive and, once again, bring our congregation back together in a manner that provides safety while inspiring us all in our faith journey. This removes the requirements of two services for our staff and allows for the weather as we approach late fall and winter.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT:

All of us should consider our health concerns and safety requirements as we continue to experience COVID19 as a threat to our community. Each person is different and should evaluate which worship experience is best for them and their family: indoor or LocalLive.

- **Pre-registration for indoor worship will remain a priority** so we can provide seating that will be limited to 100 persons in the sanctuary. Temperatures will continue to be taken by our greeting volunteers. PLEASE PLAN TO ARRIVE 10-15 minutes before the start of worship to aid this process.
- Entrance to the sanctuary will be through the MAIN DOORS UNDER THE PORTICO. If inclement weather arises, volunteers and signs will direct you to enter through the doors off the North hallway so that 6' distance between families/individuals can be maintained while waiting to be in. All coats and personal belongings should remain with you.
- PLEASE LOCATE YOUR NAME TAG after being checked in and wear it. We encourage you to take your name tag home and bring it back each Sunday that you attend.
- Ushers will seat all worshipers in family groups or by individuals 6' apart in the sanctuary.

DISMISSAL AFTER THE SERVICE will be directed by the ushers. Please wait until an usher advises you it is your turn to leave.

- COFFEE HOUR will continue to be held via ZOOM under the leadership of Mark Magnusen. We encourage you to not linger in the building so others can exit and so that you can join the virtual coffee hour once you are in your vehicle or at home.
- MASKS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES IN THE BUILDING for your safety and the safety of others. **There will be no congregational singing** and the musicians will wear masks.
- Please print out the Sunday bulletin and bring it with you. This avoids ushers handling paper you will handle. No Bibles or hymnals will be used due to possible contact issues.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Continue to pray and worship! Continue to be a part of our warm, welcoming fellowship, whether in person or via the streaming service which will also be accessible later on Sunday or during the week. If you are able, please go to https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4aaaad2aa31-sunday to volunteer!

In Christ,

John Lanaway, Co-Clerk of Session Questions: jblanaway@gmail.com Jennifer Van de Graaf, Co-Clerk of Session jenvdg@gmail.com



Wheel It Forward is a new kind of "lending library for those of us who need a little more help getting around. Please see this new local innovative lending library of medical equipment (walkers, wheelchairs, hospital beds, crutches, etc.) at www.wheelitforwardusa.org. The location is the Government Center in Stamford.

REFORMATION SUNDAY

"Lord God, Help in this Trouble"

A CHRISTIAN SONG WRITTEN BY HULDREICH ZWINGLI WHEN HE WAS ATTACKED BY THE PESTILENCE

Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531) was the newly appointed People's Priest, or *Leutpriestertum*, at Zurich's Groosmünster church. While visiting the Swiss town of Bad Pfäfers in September 1519 he learned of a new wave of plague devastating Zurich and immediately returned home. Zwingli ministered to the city's afflicted and himself fell ill. His brother, Andreas, would perish from the disease, along with an estimated quarter to half of all Zurich's citizens.

Zwingli's song shows him falling sick, battling the disease, and convalescing. The words speak to his acceptance of divine providence ("Do what Thou wilt; me nothing lacks. Thy vessel am I; to make or break altogether") and promise a future of faithful acts ("my lips must thy praise and teaching bespeak more than ever before, however it may go"). As a Reformation leader Zwingli went on to oppose longstanding church practices that contradicted his understanding of the Bible, including the veneration of saints and statues, priestly celibacy, and the sale of indulgences.

Although he didn't write the Plague Song to be performed during worship services, the text can be found in many sixteenth and seventeenth century Protestant hymnals. Zwingli's words remind us 500 years later that a commitment to others and even personal tribulation can lead to a renewed state of grace.

General Assembly 224 set aside this year's Reformation Sunday as a day for the "whole church to commit to continuous discernment of how to meet the social justice, economic, and spiritual challenges of the pandemic." The Presbyterian Historical Society joins this effort by sharing Zwingli's Plague Song in English on page 2 of this insert or at www.history.pcusa.org/rs





"Lord God, Help in this Trouble"

VI

A CHRISTIAN SONG WRITTEN BY HULDREICH ZWINGLI WHEN HE WAS ATTACKED BY THE PESTILENCE

(End of 1519)

[Ein christenlich gsang, gestelt durch H. Z., als er mit pestilentz angriffen ward. In Schuler and Schulthess ed., ii., 2, 270-2. In modern literary German, translated, pp. 272-4. In Egli and Finsler ed., i., 67-9. Translation reprinted from my life of Zwingli, pp. 132-4.

This is the most successful of Zwingli's preserved poetry. It was the memorial of his serious illness from the plague which in 1519 carried off nearly half of the population of Zurich. Though unadapted to singing it has been given a tune and is found in many hymn-books of the 15th and 16th centuries, published in Zurich.]

I.—At the Beginning of the Illness.

So let it be!

others.

Help, Lord God, help In this trouble! I think Death is at the door. Stand before me, Christ; For Thou hast overcome him! To Thee I cry: If it is Thy will, Take out the dart. Which wounds me Nor lets me have an hour's Rest or repose! Will'st Thou however That Death take me In the midst of my days,

Do what Thou wilt; Me nothing lacks.2 Thy vessel am I: To make or break altogether. For, if Thou takest away My spirit From this earth, Thou dost it, that it 3 may not grow worse, Nor spot The pious lives and ways of

In the sense of "protect."

² The words may also mean equally well, "nothing shall be too much for

3 "It," i.e., my spirit.

Song Written when Attacked with Pestilence 57

II .- In the Midst of his Illness.

me! The illness increases, Pain and fear seize My soul and body. Come to me then, With Thy grace, O my only Since I am not consolation! It1 will surely save Everyone, who His heart's desire And hopes sets On Thee, and who besides Despises all gain and loss.

Console me, Lord God, console My tongue is dumb, It cannot speak a word. My senses are all blighted. Therefore is it time That Thou my fight Conductest hereafter: So strong, that I Can bravely Make resistance To the Devil's wiles and treacherous hand. Still will my spirit

Constantly abide by Thee, how-

ever he rages.

III.—During Convalescence. Sound, Lord God, sound! I think I am Already coming back.2 Yes, if it please Thee, That no spark of sin Rule me longer on earth. Then my lips must Thy praise and teaching Bespeak more Than ever before, However it may go, In simplicity and with no By Thy help,

Now all is up.

Sometime endure, Perhaps with greater anguish Than would now have Happened,3 Lord! Since I came So near;4 So will I still The spite and boasting Of this world Bear joyfully for the sake of the reward

Without which nothing can be

danger. Although I must The punishment of death

3 I.e., if I had died this time. 4 I.e., to death's door.

perfect.

""It," i.e., Thy grace.
"I.e., to health, to myself.

General Assembly 224 set aside this year's Reformation Sunday as a day for the "whole church to commit to continuous discernment of how to meet the social justice, economic, and spiritual challenges of the pandemic." PHS joins this effort by sharing an English translation of Zwingli's Plague Song, from The Latin Works and the Correspondence of Huldreich Zwingli...vol. 1, 1912.



SIN, RACISM, AND THE CHALLENGE OF CONTEMPLATION: A THEOLOGICAL PROPOSAL ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY - The Rev. Dr. Sarah Coakley, Norris-Hulse Professor Emerita at Cambridge University, professorial research fellow at Australian Catholic University, and currently assisting priest and theologian-in-residence at Church fo the Ascenesion and St. Agnes in Washington D.C., will present the 2020 Princeton Theological Seminary Schaff Lectures during a three-evening webinar series exploring racism, sin, and the transformative possibilities of contemplation at 7:00 p.m. (ET) the evenings of November 10-12.

- November 10 "In the Jail: Systemic Racism, Contemplation, and the Problem of Seeing"
- November 11 "Reconsidering the Fall: Desire Gone Awry and Its Consequences"
- November 12 "On the Way to Union? How 'Divine Darkness' Convicts the Sin of Racism"

All sessions begin at 7:00 p.m. and the Rev. Dr. Coakley will lead a Q&A session following each evening's presentation. The lecture series are free and open to everyone. To receive the link for the series, please register online at www.pts.edu/schaff-2021

Sunday School is Here!



While you are watching the live stream of Sunday's service, there is a Sunday School bulletin for your children to do when the family gathers to worship. Please visit our website: www.fpcnc@org. Look for the Sunday School links in the October 25 Sunday's Service blog. To download the children's bulletin, click on, *Freed by Jesus*.

Please keep the following people in your hearts. New Concerns: Frank Banko and James D. Roth (stepfather and ex-husband of Becky Roth). Continued concerns: Catherine Armstrong; Gloria Bridgman; John Edwards; Graham Harden; James Marcotte; Dan McEvoy; The Stricos family (friends of Joe and Diana Ruszkowski); Joan Trefts, Debbie Murphy Williams. The Abo Noktah family (our Syrian refugees): father Khaldoun, mother Khawla Alzob, daughters Hanin, Zain and Hayat, and sons Yaman and Ahmed.

New Canaan Food Pantry has re-opened. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off at St. Mark's, by the food pantry door on Mondays 8:30-10:30 AM. The items most needed are Coffee (regular or decaf, drip or instant), apple juice, pancake mix, cereal (sweet or healthy), oatmeal, syrup, chicken, tuna, pasta sauce, vegetables, fruit, chili, soup, tortilla chips, salsa, crackers, salad dressing, applesauce, peanut butter, jelly, packaged potato dish, rice (white or brown), toothpaste, toothbrushes, dishwashing detergent, laundry detergent, ketchup, mustard, white vinegar.



THIS WEEK at FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of NEW CANAAN

REFORMATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

10 a.m. Worship, via LocalLive or in-person

Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr

Children's Worship Service

11 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour, via zoom

Password is Joy!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

10 a.m. Leadership Team, via zoom

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

3 p.m. English Handbell Choir

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

3:30 p.m. Confirmation Class6 p.m. Facebook Live Concert

ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

10 a.m. Holy Communion

via LocalLive or in-person Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr Children's Worship Service

11 a.m. Candlelight Processional to Memorial

Garden and Columbarium

11 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour, via zoom

Password is Joy!

MINISTERS

The Entire Congregation

OUR PASTORS

The Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr, Senior Pastor • The Rev. Mary Marple Thies, Parish Associate

USHERS

Bob Spangler (worship coordinator), Jennifer Frazer, Peggy Hooker, Jennifer Van de Graaf

LAY READER

Cindy Graziano

OUR STAFF

Victoria Shields, Director of Music and Arts • Sherry Tate, Cherub Choir Director Jim Riehl, Interim Church Administrator • Tina St. Armand, Office Manager Edgar Torres, Day Sexton • Kate Stringfellow, Operations Manager