



## Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 18, 2021, 11am

**Park Hill Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)**  
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 Visit our website at [parkhillpres.org](http://parkhillpres.org)

PRELUDE "Lord of The Dance" video

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Thank you Rev. Linda Whitworth Reed
2. Mary Henry will be out July 22-31st, please call member Becky Webster or Rev. Carol Clark and the church office with any pastoral care needs.

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 19, selected verse Jim Phillips

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;  
 the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;  
**More to be desired are they than gold, sweeter also than honey.**  
 the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;  
 the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;  
**More to be desired are they than gold, sweeter also than honey.**  
 the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;

the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**More to be desired are they than gold, sweeter also than honey.**

Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults...

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you,  
 O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord" (ASL) video

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart;  
 I want to see you; I want to see you; Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.  
 Open the eyes of my heart; I want to see you; I want to see you;  
 To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory.  
 Pour out your power and love as we sing "Holy, holy, holy." Holy, holy, holy.  
 Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.

CALL TO CONFESSION and CONFESSION

Jim Phillips

God gives all people the same gift of repentance that leads to life. Let us open that gift as together we confess our sins, saying Precious Lord, **Disturb us in our complacency, O God.**

Loving Creator, so often we conceive patterns of life that reflect our understandings instead of yours. Mystified by the myriad differences in human colors, cultures and ways of life, we invent categories to simplify our interactions. Precious Lord,  
**Disturb us in our complacency, O God**

In our own lives, our thinking, acting and worshiping fall similarly into convenient patterns and rituals. We enjoy and rely on what seems easy or assumed rather than trusting and glorifying you in your endless creativity and surprise. Precious Lord,  
**Disturb us in our complacency, O God.**

Remove all that keeps us from seeing each other or ourselves as your wondrous children. In its place, give us your marvelous love. Teach us to reject all that would separate us from the rest of our brothers and sisters, from our truest selves, from your mercy. In the name of Jesus, whose persistent care always finds a way, even in the midst of our human distinctions.  
 Amen.

HYMN OF FORGIVENESS "No Longer Slaves" (bridge and chorus)

I'm no longer a slave to fear. I am a child of God. I'm no longer a slave to fear.  
 I am a child of God. You split the sea so I could walk right through it. My fears were drowned in perfect love. You rescued me so I can stand and sing. I am a child of God. I am a child of God.  
 Yes, I am a child of God

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jim Phillips

Before we turn to repent, God's grace is already at work in us. Our repentance becomes our joyful acceptance of God's already promised gift of mercy and forgiveness. Brothers and sisters, accept this offer of a constantly new way of living, as we know it in Christ Jesus. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

“Come to the Table” VBS Song Video

### READING

The Message Translation Acts 11-1-30

**11** <sup>1-3</sup> The news traveled fast and in no time the leaders and friends back in Jerusalem heard about it—heard that the non-Jewish “outsiders” were now “in.” When Peter got back to Jerusalem, some of his old associates, concerned about circumcision, called him on the carpet: “What do you think you’re doing rubbing shoulders with that crowd, eating what is prohibited and ruining our good name?”

<sup>4-6</sup> So Peter, starting from the beginning, laid it out for them step-by-step: “Recently I was in the town of Joppa praying. I fell into a trance and saw a vision: Something like a huge blanket, lowered by ropes at its four corners, came down out of heaven and settled on the ground in front of me. Milling around on the blanket were farm animals, wild animals, reptiles, birds—you name it, it was there. Fascinated, I took it all in.

<sup>7-10</sup> “Then I heard a voice: ‘Go to it, Peter—kill and eat.’ I said, ‘Oh, no, Master. I’ve never so much as tasted food that wasn’t kosher.’ The voice spoke again: ‘If God says it’s okay, it’s okay.’ This happened three times, and then the blanket was pulled back up into the sky.

<sup>11-14</sup> “Just then three men showed up at the house where I was staying, sent from Caesarea to get me. The Spirit told me to go with them, no questions asked. So I went with them, I and six friends, to the man who had sent for me. He told us how he had seen an angel right in his own house, real as his next-door neighbor, saying, ‘Send to Joppa and get Simon, the one they call Peter. He’ll tell you something that will save your life—in fact, you and everyone you care for.’

<sup>15-17</sup> “So I started in, talking. Before I’d spoken half a dozen sentences, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as he did on us the first time. I remembered Jesus’ words: ‘John baptized with water; you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ So I ask you: If God gave the same exact gift to them as to us when we believed in the Master Jesus Christ, how could I object to God?”

<sup>18</sup> Hearing it all laid out like that, they quieted down. And then, as it sank in, they started praising God. “It’s really happened! God has broken through to the other nations, opened them up to Life!”

<sup>19-21</sup> Those who had been scattered by the persecution triggered by Stephen’s death traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, but they were still only speaking and dealing with their fellow Jews. Then some of the men from Cyprus and Cyrene who had come to Antioch started talking to Greeks, giving them the Message of the Master Jesus. God was pleased with what they were doing and put his stamp of approval on it—quite a number of the Greeks believed and turned to the Master.

<sup>22-24</sup> When the church in Jerusalem got wind of this, they sent Barnabas to Antioch to check on things. As soon as he arrived, he saw that God was behind and in it all. He threw himself in with them, got behind them, urging them to stay with it the rest of their lives. He was a good man that way, enthusiastic and confident in the Holy Spirit’s ways. The community grew large and strong in the Master.

<sup>25-26</sup> Then Barnabas went on to Tarsus to look for Saul. He found him and brought him back to Antioch. They were there a whole year, meeting with the church and teaching a lot of people. It was in Antioch that the disciples were for the first time called Christians.

<sup>27-30</sup> It was about this same time that some prophets came to Antioch from Jerusalem. One of them named Agabus stood up one day and, prompted by the Spirit, warned that a severe famine was about to devastate the country. (The famine eventually came during the rule of Claudius.) So the disciples decided that each of them would send whatever they could to their fellow Christians in Judea to help out. They sent Barnabas and Saul to deliver the collection to the leaders in Jerusalem.

## SERMON

Rev. Linda Whitworth-Reed

COMMENTARY by Elisabeth Reed at [Workingpreacher.org](http://Workingpreacher.org)

### \*CREED “Iona Community Creed”

led by Jim Phillips

Please rise, and join me in saying what we believe, using the Creed of the Iona Celtic Christian Community of Scotland.

**We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn;  
in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands,  
conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire.**

**We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity.**

**We affirm a faith that takes us beyond a safe place: into action, into vulnerability, and onto the streets**

**We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line; to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation; to stand with those on the edge; to choose life and be used by the Spirit for God's new community of hope.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Jim Phillips

Please join in the prayers of the people, based on Psalm 80 by Rev. Nathan Williams, saying, "Shine your face on us," **"So that we can be saved!"**

Shepherd of Israel, listen! You, who lead your people like sheep;  
you, who reign over all things from heaven;  
you, who make promises to every generation:  
Restore us! Shine your face on us, **so that we can be saved!**

Lord God of might, won't you listen to your people's prayer?  
We pray with your people whose tears never seem to quit,  
because of chronic illness or chronic injustice.  
We pray with your people who are consumed by conflict,  
in fear of oppression, longing for justice.  
We pray especially for those whose needs are closest to us today...  
Restore us! Shine your face on us, **so that we can be saved!**

Redeemer of the world, we pray for the church you have gathered.  
You call us out of the world's ways and plant us deep in the life of Christ.  
We celebrate that the gospel has reached far and wide, through faithful ministry  
and despite human unfaithfulness. We pray for the church in a time of upheaval and  
change, when it seems like our life is uprooted and our institutions are torn down. Shine  
your face on us, **so that we can be saved!**

Return to us, God of might! Plant us again in Christ. Make us your very own,  
through your very own son. Revive us, reclaim us, reform us, so we may call on your  
name rightly and never turn from your ways. Restore us, God of might!  
Shine your face on us, **so that we can be saved!**

Help us to pray as Jesus himself taught us, saying:  
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, they will  
be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and for  
give 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.**

GIVING OF OUR OFFERINGS AND TITHES

Jim Phillips

In freedom and joy, let us present the offerings of our lives to the Lord. You may  
choose to give by dropping off your offering in the plate as you exit worship in the  
sanctuary, or by mailing your offerings to the church, or giving online. Your gifts  
maintain our ministries, and make it possible to help others in need.

If you know of someone in need—physical, financial, emotional or spiritual...  
especially if it is yourself, please speak with our pastor or the elder for Congregational  
Care, Mary Henry. Please rise to sing the Doxology.

\*Doxology "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow" Video  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creations high and low.  
Praise God above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*PRAYER Jim Phillips  
Lord, please bless the offerings of our lives, that they may be multiplied to your service.  
In Christ's name we pray, Amen. And now, please turn to hymn 317, "In Christ There  
Is No East or West"

\*HYMN OF SENDING "In Christ There Is No East or West" Live #317  
In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,  
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.  
In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.  
Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be.  
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.  
In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet south and north.  
All Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

\* PASSING THE PEACE, CHARGE AND BENEDICTION  
"The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD's face shine upon you, and be  
gracious to you; The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace."

\*POSTLUDE