



"what is to prevent ME from being baptized?"

witness inclusion

acts 8:26-40

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

June 20, 2021, 11am

Park Hill Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

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Visit our website at parkhillpres.org

PRELUDE "You're A Good, Good Father"

video

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Session Decisions

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Spirit whispers,

calling us to get up and go,

to set out on the road God will show us.

The Spirit whispers, calling us to walk alongside,
to listen and ask questions and listen more.

The Spirit whispers, calling us to tell the story,
sharing the truth we know and discovering new truth together.

The Spirit whispers, calling us to worship.

*HYMN OF PRAISE "Baptized In Water" (ASL)

#482

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
Heirs of salvation, trusting the promise, faithfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our King;
One with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our King;
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now God's praises we sing.

CALL TO CONFESSION and CONFESSION

Scripture says, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."
One could simply say, if we say we don't sin, we are either liars, or fools. Desiring neither
to fool ourselves nor lie to God, let us confess our sins together, saying, God of Mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Boundary-breaking God, you draw all people to yourself, from east and west and north and
south, from beyond the categories we created to form society and culture. You say the
promise is for us...and for all whom you shall call. God of
Mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We confess that often we would rather be in charge of who you are going to call. We admit
we have put barriers in the way of joining our worship, of others bringing their whole selves,
for we are nervous about parts of some people's lives, and nervous about parts of ourselves.
God of Mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We confess that we too often choose to judge other's sin before admitting our own, and we
have rejected your children, on purpose or unintentionally. We have not known how to heal
that hurt. We have not known how to see our own sin. God of Mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Forgive us, and open our minds and hearts to match yours. Forgive us and make us ready to receive as siblings in Christ everyone you shall call. Hear now our silent prayers, and forgive us.

HYMN OF FORGIVENESS

“Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me,” vs. 1
Annabel Stavey

You unravel me with a melody. You surround me with a song. Of
deliverance from my enemies. Till all my fears are gone.
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.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God of good news, in your word we find life in all its fullness...sometimes embraced and celebrated, sometimes obscured by our brokenness, sometimes shining like a beacon; help us to hear your forgiveness and grace, and to accept the Good News: that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and freed. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Marie Mainard O'Connell

READING

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going

along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

SERMON

Rev. Marie Mainard O'Connell

CREED

“Apostle's Creed”

Virtual Congregation

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

God, we give thanks to you this day for your ongoing creation, for your welcome and inclusion, and particularly for those who serve you as fathers to others; we pray together today, saying, God who calls, **help us to hear you.**

We lift up those who have known exclusion, who long for a place at your table yet see only walls. May they know you as the father of the prodigal who runs to welcome us home; God who calls, **help us to hear you.**

We lift up those whose questions and differences have been met with scorn or stereotypes, rather than compassion and curiosity. May they experience your patient guidance, like your servant Joseph who cared for the infant Christ. God who calls, **help us to hear you.**

We lift up leaders in need of your renewal, all those in authority in public and private spheres, who are burdened by responsibilities and desperate for refreshing. May they experience your provision as a parent who gives good things when asked, and so demonstrates good care for others. God who calls, **help us to hear you.**

May all who seek a spiritual home find adoption into your family through the cleansing waters of baptism, and may those waters be near and ready. May seekers learn to trust your Spirit, and the surprising folk you call to serve. We pray this for ourselves, too. God who calls, **help us to hear you.** And this day we remember earthly fathers too, and so we pray for all the fathers who touch our lives—saying now, Holy God, **hear our prayer for fathers.**

For fathers who have given us life and love, that we may show them respect and love. For step-fathers who have assumed that role with joy, who have loved children as their own, and created a new family. For adoptive fathers, who heard your call to step forward for those that need care, who echo your love in choosing a child and sacrificing for them. **Holy God, hear our prayer for fathers.**

For those who may not have children of their flesh, but act like a father to someone in need of nurturing, and support. For those that have shaped our lives without claim of kinship. For those who have taught us, guided us, and shaped us into servants of

Christ. **Holy God, hear our prayer for fathers.**

For fathers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and their friends console them. For those who wish to be fathers, and are prevented, by circumstance or relationship, that they would be encouraged and acknowledged, and allowed to grieve and hope together. **Holy God, hear our prayer for fathers.**

For fathers who have been unable to be a source of strength, who have not responded to the needs of their children, and have not sustained their families. For fathers who struggle with temptation, violence, or addiction. For those who do harm, and for those whom they have harmed. Holy God, **hear our prayer for fathers.**

For those who have lost their fathers to death or estrangement, for those whose fathers are ill or dying, and for those whose fathers are wholly unknown. For the new fathers, full of hope and promise. For older fathers, full of wisdom. For the fathers yet to be, and fathers soon to be, and fathers surprised to learn they had children. Holy God, **hear our prayer for fathers.**

God our Father, out of your overflowing love you made all things. Bless all parents, that they may be strengthened as Christians and molded in your image. Let our faith reflect your love and be an example of mercy, kindness, and sacrifice. Help us to pray ourselves into your will, as your son Jesus 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 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.

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Commissioning the OMP Team

OFFERING

Mike Powell

GIVING OF OUR OFFERINGS AND TITHES

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.

Doxology “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow” Video
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creations high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER

*HYMN OF SENDING “Come Thou Font Of Every Blessing” #475
Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it, mount of God’s unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I’m come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here’s my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

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

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