



## Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 15, 2021, 11am

**Park Hill Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)**

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Visit our website at [parkhillpres.org](http://parkhillpres.org)

PRELUDE "All Creatures of Our God And King" Video

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Gordon Garlington Fund
2. Last Day for Giving Tree for Boone Park

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Voice 1: In Jesus, strangers are made brothers and sisters, siblings and cousins in Christ.

Voice 2: There is no distinction between Gentile and Jew, no difference between male and female, or slave or free.

Voice 1: There is no diversity that can remove any from fellowship in Christ's community.

Voice 2: May our differences be set aside, so that in unity we may proclaim your truth

Voice 1: that all are welcome, and Christ came to save each one of us,

Voice 2: and each one of them. Let us praise God.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE "Come To The Table Of Grace" #507, vs. 1, 2, 4 (ASL) video

Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace. This is God's table;  
it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of peace. Come to the table of peace. This is God's table;  
it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of peace.

Come to the table of hope. Come to the table of hope. This is God's table;  
it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of hope.

### CALL TO CONFESSION and CONFESSION

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. Hear this prayer of confession, and in the silence that follows, confess your own sin.

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. Forgive our sin. (short silence)

We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love. Forgive our sin. (short silence)

We have not loved our neighbors, we have denied belonging to our kin in Christ, and we have refused to hear the cry of the needy. Forgive us our sin. (short silence)

Forgive us and free us for joyful obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord, for these sins, and those still in our hearts. (Silence)

HYMN OF FORGIVENESS "Living Hope," vs. 1 and chorus

How great the chasm that lay between us. How high the mountain I could not climb.  
In desperation I turned to heaven. And spoke Your name into the night.  
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness Tore through the shadows of my soul.  
The work is finished the end is written. Jesus Christ my living hope.

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free. Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me.  
You have broken every chain. There's salvation in Your name.  
Jesus Christ my living hope.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that in Jesus Christ you are forgiven and be at peace.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

READING

Acts 15:1-21 Council at Jerusalem (CEB)

Some people came down from Judea teaching the family of believers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom we’ve received from Moses, you can’t be saved.”<sup>2</sup> Paul and Barnabas took sides against these Judeans and argued strongly against their position.

The church at Antioch appointed Paul, Barnabas, and several others from Antioch to go up to Jerusalem to set this question before the apostles and the elders.<sup>3</sup> The church sent this delegation on their way. They traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, telling stories about the conversion of the Gentiles to everyone. Their reports thrilled the brothers and sisters.<sup>4</sup> When they arrived in Jerusalem, the church, the apostles, and the elders all welcomed them.

They gave a full report of what God had accomplished through their activity.<sup>5</sup> Some believers from among the Pharisees stood up and claimed, “The Gentiles must be circumcised. They must be required to keep the Law from Moses.”

<sup>6</sup> The apostles and the elders gathered to consider this matter. <sup>7</sup> After much debate, Peter stood and addressed them, “Fellow believers, you know that, early on, God chose me from among you as the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and come to believe. <sup>8</sup> God, who knows people’s deepest thoughts and desires, confirmed this by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. <sup>9</sup> He made no distinction between us and them, but purified their deepest thoughts and desires through faith. <sup>10</sup> Why then are you now challenging God by placing a burden on the shoulders of these disciples that neither we nor our ancestors could bear? <sup>11</sup> On the contrary, we believe that we and they are saved in the same way, by the grace of the Lord Jesus.”

<sup>12</sup> The entire assembly fell quiet as they listened to Barnabas and Paul describe all the signs and wonders God did among the Gentiles through their activity. <sup>13</sup> When Barnabas and Paul also fell silent, James responded, “Fellow believers, listen to me. <sup>14</sup> Simon reported how, in his kindness, God came to the Gentiles in the first place, to

raise up from them a people of God. <sup>15</sup> The prophets’ words agree with this; as it is written,

<sup>16</sup> *After this I will return,  
and I will rebuild David’s fallen tent;  
I will rebuild what has been torn down.  
I will restore it*

<sup>17</sup> *so that the rest of humanity will seek the Lord,  
even all the Gentiles who belong to me.*

*The Lord says this, the one who does these things*<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>18</sup> known from earliest times.

<sup>19</sup> “Therefore, I conclude that we shouldn’t create problems for Gentiles who turn to God. <sup>20</sup> Instead, we should write a letter, telling them to avoid the pollution associated with idols, sexual immorality, eating meat from strangled animals, and consuming blood. <sup>21</sup> After all, Moses has been proclaimed in every city for a long time, and is read aloud every Sabbath in every synagogue.” <sup>22</sup> Then the apostles and the elders, with the consent of the whole church, decided to choose men from among their members<sup>[b]</sup> and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leaders among the brothers, <sup>23</sup> with the letter.

SERMON

Rev. Marie Mainard O’Connell

ANTHEM

“We Can Be Brave”

Annabel Stavey

We are brave enough to love. We are brave enough to show compassion.  
We are brave enough to listen, and tell the truth. (2x)  
We can be brave, we can be brave. Because we are filled with love  
From the bottom of God’s Heart, we can be brave.

\*APOSTLE’S CREED

Video

Please rise and join together in saying the Apostle’s Creed as you see it on the screen.  
**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic\* church;  
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(\*or universal)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As God’s people, called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the church, the whole human family, and all the world, saying: We pray to you O God,  
**Hear our prayer.**

That churches of all traditions, and our church in particular, may discover their unity in Christ and exercise their gifts in service of all; that the earth may be freed from war, famine, and disease, and the air, soil, and waters cleansed of poison, we pray to you, O God:  
**Hear our prayer.**

That those who govern and maintain peace in every land may exercise their powers in obedience to your commands, and resist the temptation to wield power unjustly; that you will strengthen this nation to pursue just priorities, so that the races may be reconciled; the young, educated; and the old, cared for; the hungry, filled; and the homeless, housed; and the sick, comforted and healed, we pray to you, O God:  
**Hear our prayer.**

That you will preserve all who live and work in this city and state in peace and safety, especially for public servants: for teachers, emergency responders, doctors and nurses; that you will comfort and empower those who face any difficulty or trial: the sick, especially those ill with COVID or cancer, and those fearful for their lives, for the disabled, the poor, the oppressed, those who grieve and those in prison, we pray to you, O God:  
**Hear our prayer.**

That you will accept our thanksgiving for all faithful servants of Christ now at rest, who, with us, await a new heaven and a new earth, your everlasting kingdom, we pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, as a potter fashions a vessel from humble clay, you form us into a new creation. Shape us, day by day, through the cross of Christ your Son, until we pray as continually as we breathe and all our acts are prayer;

**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

Raising Matching Funds for A/C & Heating 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.  
Praise God above ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*PRAYER

\*HYMN OF SENDING “The Church’s One Foundation,” vs. 1 & 2  
The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.  
She is his new creation by water and the word.  
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride.  
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
  
Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

\* 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