



Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

June 27, 2021, 11am

Park Hill Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

3520 JFK Blvd. North Little Rock AR

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Visit our website at parkhillpres.org

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CE Meeting at 1:30pm

Communion on July 4

CALL TO WORSHIP

I will exalt you, LORD, for you lifted me out of the depths
and did not let my enemies gloat over me. **Praise God's holy name!**

LORD my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me.

You spared me from the realm of the dead. **Praise God's holy name!**

Sing the praises of the LORD, you faithful people;
For God's anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime;
Praise God's holy name!
weeping may stay for the night, but joy comes in the morning.
Praise God's holy name!

*HYMN OF PRAISE "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" (ASL) #591
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

O God, to whom shall we go? You alone have the words of life. Let your words be our prayer
and the song we sing: Hallelujah, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord. When I call them they follow me.
I will lead them to rest by the peaceful streams: hallelujah, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

CALL TO CONFESSION and CONFESSION

It is God who calls us into service, who offers to transform us as God transformed Saul into
Paul Confident in God's mercy and forgiveness, let us approach God as children who re-
joice in knowing that we make mistakes, we are still loved, and we can change. Let us pray
together saying, God of surprises, **forgive our slow hearts.**

God of Life, you turn our mourning into dancing, the nights of weeping into a morning of
gladness. Your light has shone upon us, claiming us as witnesses to your saving power. Yet
we keep silent, and hide your light, we question your goodness when you use surprising
people for your will. God of surprises, **forgive our slow hearts.**

Forgive our meager witness to the good news of your light breaking into the world. Forgive
our denial of your power to transform others and ourselves. God of surprises, **forgive our
slow hearts.**

Lord, you know our slow hearts yearn to enjoy your transformation and delight in your
goodness. Prepare our hearts to trust in you. Empower us to believe in not only in your
forgiveness, but also in your continued re-creation of the world. God of surprises, **for-
give our slow hearts.**

HYMN OF FORGIVENESS

“No Longer Slaves,” vs. 2
Annabel Stavey

From my mother’s womb You have chosen me Love has called my name
I’ve been born again Into your family Your blood flows through my veins
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

The Lord called us into service in the tradition of Paul—to rejoice in knowing and proclaiming Christ to the world! So hear this good news: you are empowered, forgiven, freed, and sent by God, for in Jesus Christ we are forgiven—**thanks be to God!**
Amen!

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Marie Mainard O’Connell

READING

Acts 9:1-31

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” ⁵He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”

¹⁷So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

²¹All who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?”

²²Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus^[c] was the Messiah.^[d]

²³ After some time had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, ²⁴but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night so that they might kill him; ²⁵but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall,^[e] lowering him in a basket.

²⁶ When he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples; and they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him, brought him to the apostles, and described for them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus.

²⁸ So he went in and out among them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹ He spoke and argued with the Hellenists; but they were attempting to kill him. ³⁰ When the believers^[f] learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

³¹ Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

SERMON

Rev. Marie Mainard O’Connell

COMMENTARY by Eric Barreto of workingpreacher.org

ANTHEM

“Here I Am, Lord”

Virtual Choir Video

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER

God calls us to pray for others, as a parent prays for their child, as Stephen prayed for his, “Lord, forgive them.” Let us pray for the world’s concerns and those in need, saying, Hear us O God; **your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, O sovereign God, for you do not abandon what you have made. We thank you for this abundant earth, and the plenty that is possible. We thank you for those chosen to speak your reconciling word, and pray for all to receive it. Hear us O God; **your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, merciful God, for you hear the cries of the poor, and expect the rich to respond. You see the tears of those who mourn, and expect your body on earth to reach out with comfort. You know the pain of those in anguish and are with those who are lonely. Call us to compassion and service. Hear us O God; **your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, God of peace, as you call us to end warfare and division, and place our trust in you. Give comfort and courage to all refugees and those in danger. Raise up peacemakers among all peoples, and confound those who profit from violence. Hear us O God; **your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, God of justice, for you desire oneness. Erase prejudice and class divisions, bring strength to the persecuted and heal those who are destructive. Help us to believe even our enemies can be transformed. Hear us O God; **your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, God of transformation. Turn us to your ways and make us bold and passionate to do good. Inspire and encourage us with the witness of those faithful who have come before, and help us take our place in your will as your hands and feet on earth. Hear us O God; **your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, God of adoption: help us to pray as Christ 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

Update on OMP

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 “The Church’s One Foundation” #321
 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.

Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed, by schisms rent asunder,
 by heresies distressed, Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war, she waits the consummation
 of peace forevermore: Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
 and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

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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