

East Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church
Reedsville, Pennsylvania



July 7, 2024

11:15 am

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Congregation reads text in BOLD

*If you are comfortable doing so, please stand.

GATHERING

WELCOME

ACTS of CONTEMPORARY APOSTLES

CENTERING THOUGHT: (Thoughts on Freedom and Independence
from the perspective of John Calvin)

Calvin's teaching on freedom... includes willing service to God. We do not just serve God by serving neighbor but take up (as neighbors) mutual responsibility and human solidarity. Freedom within restored humanity exists as a sign of the presence of Christ's kingdom already alive in the midst of a fallen world.

PRAYER: Liberating God, help us not to value our own independence ahead of the freedom you give us to serve the world of today and tomorrow.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We come from the day-to-day busyness of our lives.

We come with cares and worries, joys and celebrations.

Let us set it all aside and enter this time of worship.

May our hearts and minds be open to what God might say to us this day.

Trusting always in the Spirit to meet us,

let us gather to worship God!

* HYMN: PH #564 *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

*CALL TO CONFESSION:

When we gather to worship God, we must first be honest with ourselves. We are not who God has called us to be as a people. We have not cared for others in every instance. We have made many mistakes. Let us unburden ourselves and confess our sins, knowing that God awaits to forgive and renew.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Gracious God, we live in the tension of what we are called to be and our lived reality. We often fall short of the good we intend and our growing in the likeness of Christ is painfully slow at best. Forgive us we pray. Offer us the peace that passes all understanding that we might be forgiven and begin anew. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

A time for silent reflection and self-examination

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Hear the Good News! The old life is gone, a new life has begun. You are not who you were, may you live into who you can be. Know you are forgiven and be at peace.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***PEACE OF CHRIST:**

Let us extend the Peace of Christ to those here and beyond the walls of our Sanctuary. The Peace of Christ be with You!!

And, also with You.

***GLORIA PATRI:**

***Glory to be the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.***

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE:

First Testament Reading: Ezekiel 2:1-5

New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

MESSAGE: *Freedom, Faith and Festering Wounds*

Rev. Ela J. Robertson

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***HYMN:** PH #298 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

(adapted from *Belonging to God: A First Catechism*)

We believe when Jesus spoke, he spoke with God's authority. When Jesus acted, he acted with God's power. Jesus amazed people with his deeds of power, but he was also gentle and loving. Even now, he cares for us in all our needs as a shepherd cares for sheep. Jesus also called his disciples to follow him. Jesus fed the hungry, healed the sick, blessed children, befriended outcasts, required people to repent, and forgave their sins. He taught people not to fear, but to always trust in God. He preached the good news of God's love and gave everyone hope for new life. We live our lives in gratitude for the person and work of Jesus Christ. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

LORD'S PRAYER:

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.

MEDITATIVE MUSIC

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY:**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

*HYMN/SONG: *If I had a Hammer*

If I had a hammer, I'd hammer in the morning, I'd hammer in the evening... All over this land... I'd hammer out danger, I'd hammer out a warning, I'd hammer out love between My brothers and my sisters ah-aaah... All over this land...

If I had a bell, I'd ring it in the morning, I'd ring it in the evening... All over this land... I'd ring out danger, I'd ring out a warning, I'd ring out love between My brothers and my sisters ah-aaah... All over this land...

If I had a song, I'd sing it in the morning, I'd sing it in the evening... All over this land... I'd sing out danger I'd sing out a warning, I'd sing out love between My brothers and my sisters ah-aaah... All over this land...

I got a hammer, And I got a bell, I got a song to sing... All over this land... It's the hammer of justice, It's the bell of freedom, It's the song about love between, My brothers and my sisters, ... All over this land...
... All over this land... ... All over this land... ... All over this land... ... All over this land...

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* AMEN

*POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING:

Each service during the summer will feature favorite hymns and/or uplifting secular songs. If you have a favorite let Laura or Pastor Ela know.

July 19 **Third-Friday Event**, Reedsville Square, 4:00 – 8:00 pm

July 21 **Service and Picnic with West Kish**, Greenwood Furnace

Call if you need a ride; we will arrange drop off at the little parking area near the site and assistance to the site.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Service and Picnic at Greenwood Furnace is quickly approaching (July 21).

Service at 11:00; picnic at noon.

We will be joining the congregation of West Kish for worship, food, and fellowship. West Kish will provide drinks (water and iced tea), and hotdogs, hamburgers, their corresponding buns, and condiments.

There is a sign-up sheet at today's and next Sunday's service. **Please indicate how many in your family/group will be attending and what side dishes or desserts you might contribute (we're aiming for a variety).**

Please remember to bring a chair.



July is "Easy-Meal Month" for the Blessing Box. When you're shopping, please look for foods that can easily be prepared during this hot summer month. Some ideas include: canned tuna and Tuna Helper, Pasta-Roni, macaroni and cheese and canned ham, Ramen, Shelf-Stable Protein Bowls or Noodle Dishes, hearty canned soups, canned pasta... Anything else that can be easily prepared. (Of course, we continue to appreciate any other donations as well.)

Christmas in July – 2024. Don't forget we are again participating in this worthy project for the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home. There are handouts with more details at the back of the church.

Credits: Liturgy written by Tara Bulger (*Presbyterian Outlook*, July 7, 2024); Silent Prayer excerpted from *Women, Freedom and Calvin* by Jane Dempsey Douglass.

Cover Art: Winslow Homer, *The Dinner Horn* (from "*Harper's Weekly*," Vol. XIV, 1870), Wood Engraving, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

East Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church

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Worship Leader: Rev. Ela J. Robertson

Musician: Jene Mertz

Lector: Donna Green

Ushers: Ron Witherite and Brenda Peightel