

Resources & Reflections for the Week of July 5, 2020

“Heaven knows terrible things happen to people in this world. The good die young, and the wicked prosper, and in any one town, anywhere, there is grief enough to freeze the blood.

“But from deep within - whatever the hidden spring is that life wells up from - there wells up into our lives, even at their darkest – and maybe especially then – a power to heal, to breathe new life into us, to strengthen and sustain.”

Frederick Buechner
The Magnificent Defeat

If I can help somebody, as I travel along,
If I can help somebody, with a word or song,
If I can help somebody, who is traveling wrong,
Then my living shall not be in vain.
If I can help somebody, as a good Christian ought,
If I can bring back some beauty to a world upwrought,
If I can spread love's message as the Master taught,
Then my living shall not be in vain.

Alma B. Androzso



A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE DIVERSITY OF HUMANKIND

Gracious God, who breathes life into all of Creation and each one of us, we give thanks for the glorious diversity of your creation, we pray for the human family.

Help us to embrace all your children, all loved by you, people of all races and identities. May we reach out in love, compassion, and celebration, that guided by your Holy Spirit, we may live together in your peace.

In the Name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

FROM THE CONFESSION OF 1967 “THE NEW LIFE”

[9.21] The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God’s forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates in them the new life in Christ.

[9.22] The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of who and what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that there is no one who has any ground on which to stand, except God’s grace.

[9.23] The new life does not release us from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, and fear. We still have to struggle with these disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as we mature in love and faithfulness in our life with Christ, we live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

“The Confession of 1967” is one of 12 confessional statements in The Book of Confessions, which is Part 1 of The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church.

A WEEK OF SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday - 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 13
An Epistle Reading: Romans 6:12-23
The Gospel Reading: Matthew 10:40-42

July 5th

Monday - July 6

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 62
The Gospel Reading: Luke 23:44-56a

Tuesday - July 7

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 12
The Gospel Reading: Luke 23:56b – 24:11

Wednesday - July 8

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 96
The Gospel Reading: Luke 24:13-35

Thursday - July 9

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 116
The Gospel Reading: Luke 24:36-53

Friday - July 10

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 84
A Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-13

Saturday - July 11

Psalm for the Day: Psalm 63
A Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-28

Sunday - 6th Sunday after Pentecost

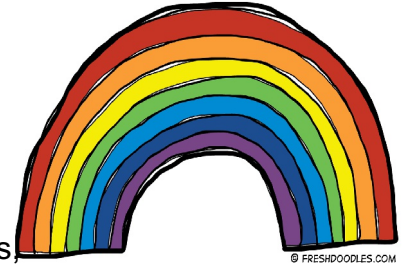
Psalm for the Day: Psalm 119:105-112
An Epistle Reading: Romans 8:1-11
The Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 12th



*If the mail is slow,
We provide you with
a start on the new week.*

PRAYER IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC



God, our refuge and strength,
these are truly trying times for us
as we face a rapidly spreading virus,
with panic buying and shelves nearly empty
and unemployment that devastates.
We have seen the worst in people and the very best.
We have seen amazing strength,
and feel our hearts tug with weakness.
We praise those on the front lines
for their courage and steadfastness.
We pray: "Sustain them in their service."
Through it all, we take hope in Christ
and Christ's promise to never leave us.
We hold one another in prayer.
Like the rest of the country,
our Presbyterian communities are physically separated,
but in you, we remain deeply connected
through our common humanity, spirituality,
and our strong faith in your grace.
Keep us constant in Christ. Amen.

A CELTIC PRAYER

I am bending my knee
In friendship and affection.
Through Thine own Anointed One, O God,
Bestow upon us fullness in our need:
Love towards God, The affection of God,
The smile of God, The wisdom of God,
The grace of God, The fear of God,
And the will of God,
To do on the world,
As angels and saints do in heaven;
Each shade and light,
Each day and night,
Each time in kindness,
Give to us Thy Spirit. Amen.