



First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh

Worship Service

November 22, 2020 - 10:45 am

*We ask your help in caring for others throughout today's service.
We would ask that throughout the service you wear a mask and observe social distancing.
Also, please remember to fellowship **outside** following the service.*

Prelude: "Prelude on Kremser"
Gordon Young

Ryan Croyle

Time of Welcome

Rev. Tom Hall

Moment for Mission

***Call to Worship** (Unison)

Rev. Dan Turis

The God who runs toward and redeems his people is the God whom we worship. He turns to us and gives his finest robes to clothe us. He claims us as his by putting a signet ring on our fingers. He brings us forward among the heavenly host, giving praise for the lost sheep who has been found. Our God seeks high and low for that which is lost. We the church were what was lost, he is the one who saved us. Let us worship Jesus Christ, the one who redeems the lost.

***Opening Hymn:** "Come, Now is the Time to Worship"

Andrew Reamer, *Percussion*
Dwayne Dolphin, *Bass*

Come, now is the time to worship;
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship;
Come, just as you are before your God, Come.
One day every tongue will confess you are God.
One day every knee will bow,
Still the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose you now. (Repeat)

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Rev. Dan Turis

Lord, we are no different than the sons in the prodigal story. We have taken what you gave us, and we squander it. We run to our own desires far more than having you be our desire. We make schemes. We are like the older brother when we get angry with you. We rely on our piety. We look at our good acts. We think those good acts are what gains your favor. We don't see your grace as a blessing. Lord, we are like those brothers and more. Please forgive us of our sin. Place your favor around our shoulders.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Children's Message

Jana Hall

*Hymn #825: "Beneath the Cross"

Scripture Reading: Luke 15:11-32

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

³¹ "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

Pastoral Prayer/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; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

*Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles' Creed

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 Spirit, 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 sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Call for the Offering

Rev. Dan Turis



After the service, please place your offering in the silver buckets located in the front and back of the sanctuary or use online giving available through GivePlus.

Anthem: "Softly and Tenderly"

arr. Cynthia Clawson

Ruth Ann Reamer, *Piano*
Emma Brown Baker, *Soprano*
Torey Gricks, *Tenor*

*Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling
Calling for you and for me;
See, on the portals He's waiting and watching
Watching for you and for me.*

*Chorus: Come home, come home!
Ye who are weary, come home!
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling, O sinner, come home!*

*Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing
Passing from you and from me.
Shadows are gathering, death beds are coming,
Coming for you and for me...*

*Oh! For the wonderful love He has promised -
Promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon
Pardon for you and for me! Chorus*

Commissioning of Frank Hancock as Student Pastor

*Closing Hymn #543: "Now Thank We All Our God"

*Benediction and Charge

Postlude: "Now Thank We All Our God"

arr. Virgil Fox

Ryan Croyle

***Please stand as you are able.**

Beneath the Cross

C7 F Gm7 B^b6 Gm7 F/C Dm7

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus, I find a place to
 2 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus, his fam - ily is my
 3 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus, the path be - fore the

Gm7 C7 F Gm7 B^b6 Gm7

stand, and won - der at such mer - cy that
 own. Once strang - ers chas - ing self - ish dreams, now
 crown, we fol - low in his foot - steps where

F/C C^{sus} C F B^b C⁹/B^b

calls me as I am. For hands that should dis -
 one through grace a - lone. How could I now dis -
 prom - ised hope is found. How great the joy be -

Am7 Dm7 B^b Gm7 C^{sus} C

card me hold wounds which tell me, "Come."
 hon - or the ones that you have loved?
 fore us to be his per - fect bride.

- continued -

F Gm7 B^b Gm7

Be - neath the cross of Je - sus, my un -
 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus, see the
 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus, we will

F C7sus C7 F *Fine last time* *To stanzas* C/B^b B^b/C

wor - thy soul is won.
 chil - dren called by God.
 glad - ly live our lives.

543

Now Thank We All Our God

F B \flat F Gm C Csus C F

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es,
 2 O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,

B \flat F B \flat Gm Gm C7 F

who won-drous things has done, in whom his world re - joic - es;
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
 the Son and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en—

C F C F E7 Am

who from our moth-ers' arms has blessed us on our way
 to keep us in his grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heaven a - dore;

D Gm F/C C7 F

with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.



First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh

The Latest from *Pastor Tom Hall*

11-22-20 **We had to celebrate**

With the rise in cases of Covid-19, health officials have been warning us not to get together to celebrate Thanksgiving this year.

I'm thankful for leaders who work to protect us, I pray for them. But I wonder. What is the cost of minimizing the risk to our physical health?

What about our mental and spiritual health?

Luke 15 tells how the tax collectors and sinners "gathered around" Jesus. Seeing this, the Pharisees (which means "separatist") muttered against him. In response, Jesus told three parables in which something was lost, a sheep, a coin, and a son. After each was found, there was, you guessed it, a celebration.

When the shepherd found his lost sheep and the woman found her lost coin, no explanation was needed. Everyone knew why they had to celebrate. "In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents," Jesus said.

But when his younger son was found, the father had to explain his joy to the older son. "We had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

When Jesus brings someone home, it's a cause for cosmic joy.

The religious leaders of Jesus' day didn't understand. Most people today don't understand either.

Jesus described our ultimate future as a great banquet where he is the host. When we gather for the Lord's Supper, we get a taste of the joy in our ultimate future. And when believers gather for Thanksgiving, we get a taste of that joy as well.

When we gather to celebrate, there's a health risk.

When we fail to gather to celebrate, there's a soul risk.

Sometimes you have to celebrate.