



**First Presbyterian
Church**
of Pittsburgh

Worship Service

September 6, 2020 - 10:45 am

Prelude: "Andante"

Felix Mendelssohn

Ethan LaPlaca

Time of Welcome

Rev. Tom Hall

Call to Worship

Jacob Wilson

Like a road, what can be seen ends at the horizon, so is the faithfulness of our God. He stands on the other side of our pain and proclaims that he has been with us this whole time. Though he seems distant, we wonder when he will show amidst our suffering. Often what is not seen does not mean absence. The same is with our God. Our God doesn't demand our worship in light of our suffering; he is still a God that elicits our worship. Let us worship the God who does not stand far away from us. Let us sing to the God who is near and present, even when we don't know it. Let us worship the God who was and is always with us.

Opening Hymn #410: "How Long Will You Forget Me, Lord"

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we are quick to ask "how long?" We are quick to look at you and think you are the one who makes our situation. We suffer from the illness of sin. It is a sickness unto death. Your grace doesn't stop us from blaming you for our situation. Lord, at every turn we assume that you don't hear us. We assume our mess is your fault. We draw away from you even though we have no reason. For all of these reasons and a thousand more, we repent. We know that we must be formed by you. We know that our lives are void without your love. So, we ask that you have mercy on us, forgive us of our sin, and renew us to a right relationship with you. *Amen.*

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Hymn: "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise", vs. 1 & 2

*Child of blessing, child of promise,
Baptized with the Spirit's sign,
With this water God has sealed you
Unto love and grace divine.*

*Child of love, our love's expression,
Love's creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits,
Into joy and laughter lead*

Sacrament of Baptism

Rev. Dan Turis

Dominic James Muraco

Son of James Samuel Muraco and Jenna Elizabeth Placha Muraco

Hymn: "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise", vs. 3 & 4

*Child of joy, our dearest treasure,
God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you:
Live as one who bears Christ's name.*

*Child of God, your loving Parent,
Learn to listen for God's call.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,
Trust and love God more than all*

Scripture Reading: Psalm 13:1-6

How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
²How long must I wrestle with my thoughts
and day after day have sorrow in my heart?
How long will my enemy triumph over me?
³Look on me and answer, LORD my God.
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,
⁴and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"
and my foes will rejoice when I fall.
⁵But I trust in your unfailing love;
my heart rejoices in your salvation.
⁶I will sing the LORD's praise,
for he has been good to me.

Sermon – "How Long?"

Rev. Tom Hall

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.*

Call for the Offering

Online giving available through GivePlus



Rev. Dan Turis

Anthem: "Living Hope"

Phil Wickman

Torey Gricks, *tenor*
Ruth Ann Reamer, *piano*

*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.*

*Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame.
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven.
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.*

Chorus:
*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.*

*Then came the morning that sealed the promise.
Your buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence, the roaring lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me.
Jesus, Yours is the victory. (Chorus)*

*Jesus Christ, my living hope!
God, You are my living hope!*

Ordination, Installation and Commissioning of Officers

Rev. Tom Hall

Kathleen Haffly, *elder*
Greg Kobulnicky, *elder*
David Williams, *elder*

Micah Delo, *trustee*
Alexa Hansen, *trustee*
Victor Ndinyah, *trustee*

Alice Larter, *deacon*
Lenora O'Neal, *deacon*
Mia Swann, *deacon*

Closing Hymn #696: "Marvelous Grace"

Benediction and Charge

Postlude: "Postlude in Classic Style"
Gordon Young

Ethan LaPlaca

*We ask your help in caring for others throughout today's service.
We would ask that throughout the service you wear a mask, observe social distancing,
remain seated, and listen (not sing) to the music.*

Welcome Back, Ethan LaPlaca

Today we welcome back Ethan LaPlaca as Guest Organist. Ethan is the Director of Choral Activities at Mt. Lebanon High School.

How Long Will You Forget Me, Lord

PSALM 13

1 How long will you for - get me, Lord,
 2 Look on my need, O Lord my God,
 3 Look on their threats and hear my cry,
 4 Lord, in your mer - cy is my trust;

and hide your face a - way?
 who grants my ev - ery breath;
 and an - swer when I call:
 I shall be glad and free:

How long shall e - vils tear my heart
 give light that I may see your light,
 or they will claim the vic - to - ry
 then shall I sing with all my heart

and trou - bles fill my day?
 nor sleep the sleep of death.
 who long to see me fall.
 how you have dealt with me.

Chords: D7, G, C, G, D7, G, B7/D#, Em, A9, D7, G, B7, Em, C, D, G, G/D, D7, G

Marvelous Grace

G D7 G D7

1 Mar - vel - ous grace of our lov - ing Lord, grace that ex -
 2 Dark is the stain that we can - not hide, what can a -
 3 Mar - vel - ous, in - fi - nite, match - less grace, free - ly be -

G D7

ceeds our sin and our guilt, yon - der on Cal - va - ry's
 vail to wash it a - way! Look! there is flow - ing a
 stowed on all who be - lieve: you that are long - ing to

G Em Am/C G/D D G

mount out - poured, there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.
 crim - son tide; whit - er than snow you may be to - day.
 see his face, will you this mo - ment his grace re - ceive?

Refrain G C/G G D7

Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will
 Mar - vel - ous grace, in - fi - nite grace,

G C/G G

par - don and cleanse with - in; grace, grace,
 mar - vel - ous grace,

C/G G Am/C G/D D G

God's grace, grace that is great - er than all our sin.
 in - fi - nite grace,



First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh

The Latest from *Pastor Tom Hall*

09-06-20 **“The growing season”**

Life for Sarah Frey growing up on the family farm in southern Illinois wasn't exactly easy.

Even in the early 80's, the house had no indoor plumbing. The family grew or hunted everything they ate. At age four Sarah was responsible for keeping the fire burning in the wood stove that heated the house. At five she was driving. At eight she negotiating the sale of produce with grocery store managers. At 15, she moved out of her parents' house into another small house the family owned, fixing it up with earnings from after school jobs. At 16 the bank loaned her \$10,000 so she could buy a truck to build her produce business. The banker insisted on giving her two years to pay it back. She paid it back in two months.

At 18, she bought the farm, by herself.

At 19, she closed a deal with Wal-Mart to deliver tons of produce a week. The deal became the subject of a Harvard case study.

In her new book, *The Growing Season: How I Saved an American Farm and Built a New Life*, Sarah tells how challenges like these, and the love of her very imperfect family, shaped her life. She learned to believe in herself, work tirelessly, and refuse to let obstacles stop her.

We all need some inspiration right now, and Sarah delivers tons of it.

There is a reason that the Bible speaks of seasons and the importance of bearing fruit. Hard times taught Sarah to see the beauty in imperfect fruit. When Sarah found that the small or misshapen fruit was often the most flavorful, instead of plowing it under, she used it to start her fresh juice business.

Sarah said, “I hope the book helps people see through life's imperfections and hardships. Right now, everything that we're going through as a country with Covid, just know that there's a brighter season on the other side of this.”

“You need to have the optimism of the farmer. The growing seasons that are fallow can teach us just as much as the growing seasons that are bountiful.”