## THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EVERETT

Online Worship Bulletin October 22, 2023 – 10am

\*For our liturgy this morning, **BOLD** text invites all to join in the reading.

The First Presbyterian Church of Everett welcomes you to worship. Our Friendship Pads are back in our pews. We hope you take a moment to fill them out. This is a great way for us to get to know who's worshipping with us and to connect you to our community. Again, welcome!

Prelude Improvisation on Aberystwyth – Hopson

Gary Norris, Organist

Ringing of the Bell

Steve Torrence, Director of Music Ministries

Welcome Leslie Sutin

Call to Worship

Isaiah 43:1-2, 18-21

Lisa Comstock

Now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

When you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.

To give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Hymn

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

#411

Prayer of Confession and the Lord's Prayer

Lisa Comstock

Trusting that God will free us from our sin and deliver us to safety, let us confess our sins with courage and hope.

Creator God, we are commanded to give to you what is declared as yours. But since we cannot see your face, we confess confusion. Where is your image printed? Not on our coinage or our calendars. Not on any of the things we buy in the store or in the videos that stream by us. No, the only place we can see your face, is in our neighbor and in the mirror.

We're the ones created in your image. Honestly, we miss this often as we follow hollow idols. But you love us. You search for us. You desire a relationship with us where you want our heart, mind, soul, and strength. Forgive us Lord, and call us back to you. We want to give our all to you.

Take a moment of silent personal confession.

Christ has broken the power of sin and rescued us from our shame. Be at peace: you are forgiven, and you are free.

### To God be the glory! Alleluia! Amen.

Now with believers everywhere, we pray the Lord's Prayer, Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

#### Passing of the Peace

May the peace of Christ, be with you! And also with you!

Hymn Glory Be to the Father #579

Choir Anthem No More Night Directed by Steve Torrence

Scripture Matthew 5:1-2, 6:5-15

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Sermon Praying with Jesus Rev. Judy Lang

Prayers of the People

Hymn Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing #356

Prayer

Benediction Rev. Judy Lang

Postlude Toccata – Zipoli Gary Norris, Organist

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# Today's Choir Anthem No More Night

The timeless theme, earth and heaven will pass away. It's not a dream, God will make all things new that day. Gone is the curse from which I stumbled and fell; evil is banished to eternal hell.

No more night, no more pain, no more tears, never crying again. Praises to the great "I Am", we will live in the light of the risen Lamb.

See all around, now the nations bow down to sing. The only sound is the praises to Christ, our King. Slowly the names from the book are read; I know the King, there's no need to dread.

No more night, no more pain, no more tears, never crying again. Praises to the great "I Am", we will live in the light of the risen Lamb.

See over there, it's a mansion prepared for me where I can live with my Savior eternally.

No more night, no more pain, no more tears, never crying again. Praises to the great "I Am", we will live in the light of the risen Lamb. We will live in the light of the risen Lamb. Hallelujah to the risen Lamb!

# Simple Joys

Yes, it is time to begin thinking about Advent. I have been praying and kicking around ideas for this year's Advent devotional and have decided upon the theme: Simple Joys. We may automatically think of the opening line 'tis a gift to be simple' from the hymn/tune of the Shaker Hymn "Simple Gifts". In our blue hymnal, we know the tune when we sing "Lord of the Dance". However, our theme is not limited to music. I have been struck by the need for simplicity or awareness in my life. I tend to move quickly whether walking or in my mind. Yet, the psalmist tells us to 'be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10) and part of Advent is 'treasuring all these words and pondering them in our heart' (slight paraphrase as Mary did this in Luke 1:29 and 2:19).

Our world, our lives, and our hearts/minds race or can be filled up quickly to the point we are not excited about Advent or the coming Christ-child. Instead, we can get anxious, overwhelmed, and find the 'season' tedious and frustrating. The good news to break the rush during Advent is to slow down in humble waiting. God invites us to pause, breathe, and take a moment to see miracles of hope, joy, peace, and love around us. I can think of many times when I actually stopped and found joy in watching children get excited about giving gifts to others, experienced joy in the company of another just sharing a coffee together and was startled by the joy of a gift given to me that I did not expect and realized was extremely thoughtful. We are going to say yes to joy this Advent season.

To do this, one of the meaningful parts we've celebrated Advent recently is by creating a devotional that YOU write. Your thoughts are profound and meaningful to me and the rest of the congregation. I invite you to write a story or create a poem about how joy brought you closer to Jesus in Advent.

Think about a favorite memory of Christmas that gave or gives you joy? Is there a tradition you love? Was there a surprise invitation leading to wonder and awe you can think about? What joy touched your heart and showed you the Christ-child again? What brings you joy just thinking about Christmas? Be creative and I'd totally be stoked if you shared those stories with us.

So... begin. I know Advent seems so far away, but it will be here sooner than we realize. The deadline for submitting a story (it can be long or short, don't worry, it will be great!) is Tuesday October 31<sup>st</sup>. Please submit a story via email (dorway@firstpreschurch.com) or bring a completed copy to me (Pastor Alan) before the deadline. Thank you!

## **Announcements**

Pastor Alan is on vacation this week. He will return to the pulpit on Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### We welcome the Rev. Judy Lang today in worship!

Judy served on the faculty of Whitworth University where she directed academic programs for international students. Upon retiring, she earned an M.Div. at Regent College in Vancouver, BC. She is an ordained pastor who has ministered in both Baptist and Presbyterian congregations and currently serves as a resident volunteer at Warm Beach Camp.

She is interested in challenging adults 50-and-better to consider what their "encore" will be as they approach the threshold of retirement.

Judy loves hanging out with her four grown children, their spouses, and seven grandkids, especially in the mountains with a view of open water.

#### **Facility Update**

We are scheduled to have concrete work done on the northwest corner of our property beginning on Monday October 23 through the 25th. Our parking lots (north and alley) will be unavailable during these three days to allow for access for the construction crew. Any cars in our parking lot on Monday morning through the end of work will be towed. The north door will be accessible from Rockefeller. Thank you.

#### **Note from Annette King:**

Wes King will be interned with Military Honors at 1pm on Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at Tahoma National Military Cemetery near Kent, WA (2+ hour drive, outside service). If you plan to attend, please let Annette know as she will need to brief you on arrival time and protocol procedures.

We will host a Celebration of Life for Wes King on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 1pm here at the First Presbyterian Church of Everett. This will be a wonderful celebration as it will be Wes' 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Additional information will be coming.

## **Retiring Library Books**

Please check the Chapel to see retiring books. **Give one** *or more* **a forever home**. Leave a donation for library in marked container or regular offering as you are led.

#### Presbyterian Women Pumpkin Patch Fall Luncheon – October 28<sup>th</sup>

The Presbyterian Women will be hosting a fall luncheon at 11:30 am on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> in Westminster Hall. Wear your favorite fall apparel. We will be doing a craft project. RSVP by October 20<sup>th</sup> at the Welcome Booth sign-up sheet or to the church office.



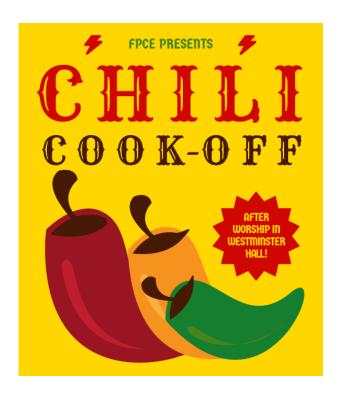
#### Chili Cook-Off Returns - October 29th

Our Chili Cook-Off is back on Sunday, October 29th! We will be having our famous and award-winning chili cooks bringing their amazing creations for tasting right after worship. Our trophy has been polished and bragging rights are on the line.

If chili is not your expertise, come to satisfy your sweet tooth. We'll also be having a bake sale to benefit Parkinson's and Alzheimer's research during the cook-off. If you would like to donate a dessert, make sure your item is on a plate you do not want back, it is completely wrapped, and marked with a description of your treat.

There is a sign-up sheet for chili entries and baked good donations at the Welcome Booth. This will be a great event with free chili and desserts to purchase!

Questions? Contact Teresa Good or Marne Larson.





#### Fall Thursday Bible Study - "Canon" Ball

Join Pastor Alan for our Fall Thursday Bible Study. We will be reading scripture, studying issues on how the Bible came to be, and the struggle over who, what, and when well-meaning Christian's claim 'authority'. We will not solve everything, but we will endeavor to listen, share, and learn together. We gather via the Zoom platform on Thursdays at 4pm. Below is the schedule.

- Oct 26 No Bible Study
- Nov 2 Conflict of Story *Deuteronomy 4:1-8; Luke 8:26-39*
- Nov 9 National Canon Romans 13:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22
- Nov 16 The Violence of Canon Galatians 5:13-26; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20

#### **VOA Food Donations**

We donated 409 pounds of food to the Volunteers of America Food Bank this month. Great job! Our next drive-through collection is Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 12pm. Pastor Alan and Ken Newman will be accepting non-perishable food in the alley. You can also bring non-perishable food any Sunday and add it to the collection boxes at each door. Your donations support those in need here in Everett. Thank you for your donations.

#### **Hymn Requests**

The Worship Committee invites you to suggest a favorite song or hymn for inclusion in worship. There are request forms next to the offering box. Just fill one out and drop it in the offering box and we will try our best to include your hymn in worship in the following weeks.

#### This Week...

- **Sunday School** There is no Sunday School today or on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Steve Hammond will conclude our class on November 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Lunch with Alan There will be no Lunch with Alan tomorrow, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- **Thursday Bible Study** *There will be no Thursday Bible Study on October 26<sup>th</sup>*. We will resume our study on November 2, studying Deuteronomy 4:1-8; Luke 8:26-39.
- **Next Sunday** we will have hybrid worship at 10am.
  - o All videos are linked to our Facebook page, website, app, and YouTube channel.

## To all worshipping with us...

The First Presbyterian Church is a sanctuary open to all people. Please:

- Honor those who wish to wear masks in our facility. Ask people to be kind and welcoming to those who may need some extra space.
- Respect boundaries if one asks for alternative ways of greeting.
- Use the many hand sanitizer stations throughout our building.

If there is any confusion, concerns, or questions, please contact Pastor Alan or a greeter. Our goal is to worship together and love our neighbor. We value everyone being able to worship in safety, inclusion, and openness. All are welcome.

#### Prayer Requests October 22, 2023

- We pray for peace and the cessation of war in Israel/Palestine. While there are historical and political complexities and layers to this conflict, we boldly pray for Israeli and Palestinian families who have been caught in the middle and torn apart. We pray for those grieving, for those suffering, for those confused, and for those whose only reaction is to seek revenge. We pray for comfort, relief, healing, and release. We seek your peace that defies understanding to settle on families, individuals, and leaders on all sides. We pray, fully knowing we do not have the answers, knowing we are weak and sometimes prejudiced, but trusting our Lord Jesus knows the answer, is working, and is present there.
- We pray for peace between Russia and Ukraine.
- We pray for Arlene Mawudeku with on-going health issues.
- We pray for Mike Clemans health.
- Please pray for the Hermansen family, Art, Sue, and their children Lori & John. Sue has had a stroke and is in Harborview. Art is in memory care at Harbour Pointe. From Lois Tysseling.
- Our friend Karen Jensen asks for our prayers. Her husband recently passed away and she is now living in an adult home struggling with a long history of lupus. From Alan and Dottie Villesvik.
- Our friend Meredith's mother, Beverly, is hospitalized in critical condition. She is having post-op complications from two previous surgeries. We appreciate your prayers for her and her family. From Ari and Robin Kohler.
- Cindy Rowlands died September 26<sup>th</sup>. Please keep her husband, Dennis, and her family in your prayers during this time.
- George Newland died September 29<sup>th</sup>. Please keep his family in your prayers during this time.
- Please pray for the Good family. Jaclyn Good, Teresa's aunt, died this past week.
- We pray for Gary Norris' health.
- We pray for healing for Elly Koffler and good test results from a heart test. From Jodi Donley.
- **Update:** Marsha Lueth We are grateful to learn she does not have brain cancer. Marsha had a stroke but is thankful for your prayers and support. Please continue to pray for Marsha for strength with her on-going health concerns.
- **New Update:** Son-in-law, Doug Schultz, is now committed to his "chemo for life" regimen (Revlimid). He's driving short distances, and we praise God daily for his improvements in his balance and strength. Thank you for your continuous prayers. From Annette King.
- **Update:** Thank you for your continued prayers for our daughter, Jan Geibel. She has been on a trial for a new drug through Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. It looks very promising. Jan appreciates your thoughts and prayers. From Judy & Clyde Pitcher.
- **Update:** Karen, daughter of Marilee Richards, is making progress with her health challenges and the family is grateful for the prayers. Please continue to pray for ongoing improvement.

- **Update:** on prayer request for our granddaughter, Melissa Mobeck. Chris and Melissa both appreciate our prayers and ask for continued prayers for Melissa's healing. From Alan and Dottie Villesvik.
- **Update:** On our friends Mike and Jeannine Schone: Mike continues to feel great and appreciates our prayers. Recent tests showed no cancer but is continuing his treatment as recommended by his doctors. From Alan and Dottie Villesvik
- Please pray for Kari, good friend of Judy Hutchison, who is going through chemotherapy.
- Jimmy Sharp appreciates prayers for his on-going back injury.

#### **Continued Prayers for FPCE**

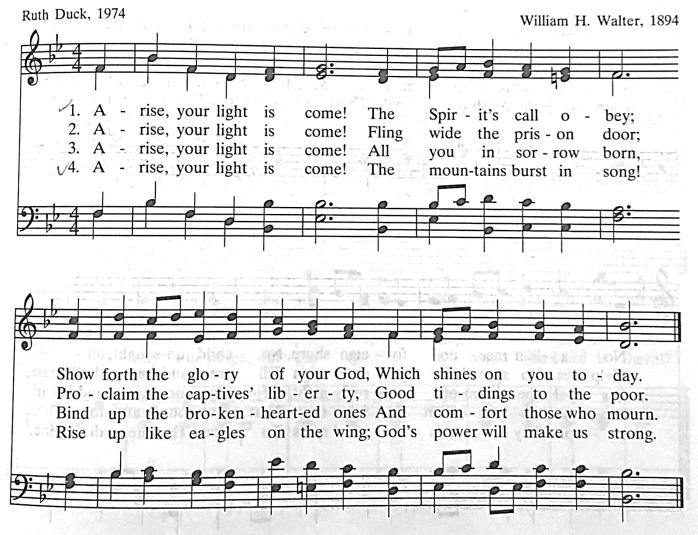
- Family of Wes King
- Family of Peter Boonstra
- Family of Maggie Lamus
- Family of Lin Davis
- Arlene Mawudeku for kidney transplant
- Susan Klingler
- Tom & Pat Dotson friends of Bob & Barbara Barren
- Cody, grandson of Marilee Richards
- Florence Day
- Karen Summers
- Quinn Carpenter
- Genny Heuer and extended family
- Larry O'Donnell
- Robert Henry
- Paul & Joyce Richardson
- LaMara Halstrom and Jane McMahon Steve and Nancy Torrence
- Pat Weakley Hein sister-in-law of Jan Weakley
- Matt McCoy, grandson of Annette King
- Clyde Pitcher
- Robby as he continues to heal and for Monica helping every step of the way from Martha and Mike Clemans
- Cy Paydar nephew of Steve and Nancy Torrence

We pray for families affected by dementia and/or Alzheimer's. As with other individuals and families, we pray for successful research, perseverance, a sense of humor, and the Spirit's peace.

# Arise, Your Light Is Come!

411

FESTAL SONG SM



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# Glory Be to the Father



# Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 356

Robert Robinson, c. 1758

- 1. Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
  Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
  Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
  Call for songs of loudest praise.
  Teach me some melodious sonnet,
  Sung by flaming tongues above;
  Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
  Mount of God's unchanging love!
- 2. Here I raise my Ebenezer,
  Hither by Thy help I'm come;
  And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
  Safely to arrive at home.

Tune: NETTLETON, opposite.

- Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wandering from the fold of God; He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.
- 3. O to grace how great a debtor
  Daily I'm constrained to be!
  Let that grace now, like a fetter,
  Bind my wandering heart to Thee:
  Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
  Prone to leave the God I love;
  Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
  Seal it for Thy courts above.