



Westminster Presbyterian Church

October 17th, 2021 | 10:00am

Live Streaming | In Person

Prayers by Rev. Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Prelude

Steve Johnson

Welcome

Rev. Barbara Macfie

***Call to Worship**

Adele Trout & congregation

A poetic call to worship, for one voice.

If you come into this place
with the hope of growing deeper,
with the hope of connecting,
with the hope of glimpsing God,
and if all of those things take place,
and your spirit is moved,
and you swear God is near,
and you feel more than lucky for the gift of faith,
and then the service comes to an end,
and it's time for you to leave,
and you ask yourself,
"Where do we go from here?"
Then I would say to you,
"Go out into the world
to love and to share and to learn,
but come back soon,
because this is the beginning.
This is only the beginning.

So come on in. Fill your cup here. Be present here. God is here.

Let us worship Holy God.

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

Beneath the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten,
as a dream dies at the opening day.

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard
while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

Call to Confession

Adele Trout

One of the things I love about the prayer of confession is it allows us to claim that we are works in progress, and in that there is beauty.
You don't have to be perfect here.
You don't have to have it all figured out here.

You don't have to have a five-step plan for what's next here.
You just have to show up with your messy, beautiful self, and be honest.
So friends, let us be honest. Let us pray the prayer of confession together. . .

Prayer of Confession | Truth Telling

Adele Trout & congregation

Holy God, we are naturals when it comes to stalling out.
We reach a certain point in the relationship, in the conversation, in our faith, and then we stall.

We buy property on the top of the plateau and build a house there, destined to never dig deeper or climb higher.
Forgive us for giving up on the things that matter.

Forgive us for confusing the plateau with the mountain top. Forgive us for taking the easy way out instead of doing the hard work of curiosity, relationship-building, vulnerability, and connection.

Inspire us to see new paths for where we can go from here.
With hope and honesty we pray,
Amen.

Words of forgiveness

Adele Trout & congregation

Family of faith,
We are works in progress, but we are works in progress designed, created, and claimed, by God.

No matter what you have done or left undone this week, today is a fresh start.
Hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

God is with me on the mountain top, and God is with me on the plateau. I am loved, claimed, and forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Children's Message

Rev. Barbara Macfie

Prayer for Illumination

Adele Trout

Holy God,
we know that you are always speaking—
through strangers and friends,
through sunrise and sunset,
through random acts of kindness,
and feelings that stir hope awake in us.

We know that you speak through dreams and prayer, through a still, small voice and bursts of overwhelming joy.

We know that you are always speaking,
but we also know that we are inclined to miss it. Settle our spirits now to hear your word fully. We want to be part of the conversation. Gratefully we pray,
Amen.

Scripture Reading

Exodus 1:15-22

Adele Trout

15 The King of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiph'rah and the other Pu'ah, 16 "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live."

17 But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. 18 So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, " Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?"

19 The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them."

20 So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. 21 And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

22 Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading

Exodus 2:1-10

Adele Trout

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. 2 The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months.

3 When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. 4 His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

5 The daughter of the Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it.

6 When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. 7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"

8 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. 9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it.

10 When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because" she said, "I drew him out of the water."

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 1:3-10

Rev. Barbara Macfie

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

5 who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials,

7 so that the genuineness of your faith - being more precious than gold, though perishable, is tested by fire - may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

8 Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry.

Sermon

“What was it about Job?”

Rev. Barbara Macfie

***Affirmation of Faith**

Adele Trout & congregation

Brief Statement of Faith Presbyterian Church (USA)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ,

the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles, rules our faith and life, in Christ, through Scripture.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ, as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks, and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Anthem

"I Will Come to you"

GTG #177

"I will come to you in the silence;
I will lift you from all your fear. You will hear my voice;
I claim you as my choice.
Be still and know I am here.

Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me,
I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine."

"I am hope for all
who are hopeless;
I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night,
I will be your light.
Come and rest in me.

Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me,
I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine."

"I am strength for all the despairing,
healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see; the lame will all run free,
and all will know my name.

Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me,
I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine."

"I am the Word that leads all to freedom;
I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name, embracing all your pain.
Stand up, now walk and live!

Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me,
I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine."

Invitation to the Offering

Adele Trout

The story of our faith is one that constantly reminds us

that we cannot do this work alone. So in community, we ask ourselves: Where do we go from here?

And one answer to that question is that we give what we can from what we have, and trust that God will continue moving us closer to that promised day.

So family of faith, I invite you to give your time, tithes and your offerings now, knowing that this is the work of community, this is the work of faith. Let us give.

Prayer of the People | Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Barbara Macfie

God of conversation,

we are here, trying to be courageous. We are trying to be curious.

We are here trying to build connections in this lonely and isolated world.

We want to be somewhere other than here.

We want to be standing in a place, and time, that is closer to your promised day where all are fed, the prisoners are freed, the homeless are housed, and every person knows their worth.

And we know we can't get there without honest and vulnerable conversation, but we don't always know what to ask. We fear saying the wrong thing. We fear offending, so we eat our words and stay quiet, hoping that answers will come, but they don't always come. Connection has never been quite so easy for us.

So today we ask for your words.

Plant questions in us that, like seeds, grow into a garden of connection.

Plant affirmation in us that, like laughter, is contagious and mood-changing.

Plant curiosity in us that, like rain, washes away any judgment we carry, replacing it with a desire to understand.

And when we have your words in our mouth, and your mind in our hearts, then teach us how to listen.

Teach us how to hear the message under the words—the grief, the hurt, the fear, the shame, that hangs under sentences like bats under a bridge. Help us to hear and make space for those unspoken truths.

Then teach us how to listen to voices that differ from us—voices with different opinions, with different histories, with different perspectives.

So draw near to us. Teach us how to speak. Teach us how to listen. Teach us how to find you in the spaces between our words and our ears.

And as you do, hear and receive these prayers...

Guide us. Be with us. Hold us. Unsettle us. Feed us. Fill us. Amen

We continue with the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, saying

The Lord's Prayer

***Closing Song**

Men of Faith, Rise Up and Sing" GTG #319

Men of faith, rise up and sing
of the great and glorious King.
You are strong when you feel weak;
in your brokenness, complete.
Shout to the north and the south;
sing to the east and the west.
Jesus is Savior to all,
Lord of heaven and earth.

Rise up, women of the truth.
Stand and sing to broken hearts who can know
the healing power of our awesome King of love.

Shout to the north and the south;
sing to the east and the west.
Jesus is Savior to all,
Lord of heaven and earth.

We've been through fire;
we've been through rain;
we've been refined by the power of your name.

We've fallen deeper in love with you.
You've burned this truth on our lips.

Shout to the north and the south;
sing to the east and the west.
Jesus is Savior to all,
Lord of heaven and earth.

Rise up, church, with broken wings;
fill this place with songs again
of our God who reigns on high;
by God's grace again we'll fly.

Shout to the north and the south;
sing to the east and the west.
Jesus is Savior to all,
Lord of heaven and earth.

***Benediction**

Rev. Barbara Macfie

Postlude

Steve Johnson

Thank you to those involved in worship today:

Pastor Rev. Barbara Macfie

Ushers: Suzi Berry & Lois Ann Rayner

Liturgist: Adele Trout

Musicians: Steve Johnson & Choir

Remember in Prayer

Pray for all those

*touched recently by violence and natural disasters, the healing of national
hostility and mistrust, efforts to feed the poor and provide shelter for the
homeless in our area, and the following people:*

Rev. Innocent Mabuza, Bishop of some churches in Swaziland and friend of **John Hawkins**, is seriously ill.

Ed Carter (102) is under hospice care in the skilled nursing unit at The Moorings. He is comfortable and appreciates our prayers . There are no visitors at this time.

Glenn Bellinger passed on Friday. His daughter in law will be sending a link with more information

Linda Book continues her battle with multiple myeloma cancer.

Chuck Burton, extended family of Lois Rayner, is dealing with issues related to cancer.

Pauline Cottingham is doing well, despite the general decline in her health.

Peter Culin, Sue Culin's brother-in-law, is undergoing chemotherapy.

Rob Harkins, son of Bob and Claudene Harkins, is fighting a serious, resistant foot infection. Bob and Claudene have returned to Florida to support him.

Bill Hrin fell on August 25th, fractured his knee- cap, he is ambulating with difficulty, using a walker.

Sandra Hrin is home and recovering from surgery, but is still dealing with back pain. We keep Sandra and Bill in our prayers.

Clare MacDonald reports that her son-in-law, **Jay Carlson**, who suffered a blood clot in his head, has returned to work on a part-time basis and is gradually improving. She requests our continued prayers for him and his young family.

Lib Macnab was in the hospital and now home recovering. Lib appreciates the continued prayers.

Sharon's sister, Marcy who has just begun her chemotherapy.

Robbie who has lung complications from Covid 19.

Pastor Len's daughter and grandson, **Isaac Hodnett** recovering from COVID and

Izzy Hodnett recovering from back surgery

Pastor Len's brother **James Goettl** who is waiting for an open bed to be admitted to the hospital for complications related to Chron's Disease.

Lacey Meade, Betty Pratt's daughter, completed her last round of chemotherapy.

Betty Pratt is feeling better, though she has some memory issues.

Greg Solt, friend of Karen and Glenn Dixon, is battling pancreatic and liver cancer.

Janet Waugaman, Sally Waugaman's daughter, continues to lose mobility due to Multiple System Atrophy.

Our church has a prayer chain of members who will pray for any person you ask. Contact Leslie Marsh by phone at 302-542-9927 or email at cmarshjr@verizon.net

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