



First Reformed United Church of Christ

Where People Discover...
The Love of God...
The Power to Love Others...
The Ability to Love Ourselves.

The Worship of God

July 5, 2020
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

“BOLD” indicates congregational response

Please let us know if you joined our worship service on YouTube or Facebook with comments on our Facebook page.

Prelude	"With the Saints in Glory Shining" [Edward Broughton]	Robert Wilson
Welcome and Invitation to Worship		Rev. Elizabeth Horton
Invocation		Rev. Jay Whitley
Magnificent God, we, your people, gather today at your call of extravagant welcome. You call us of every age, color and orientation to this time and place to celebrate your oneness in you, Eternal God Creator, Redeemer and Spirit. Amen.		
Hymn	"Come Christians, Join to Sing"	Ellen Peterson
Prayer of Confession	Romans 7: 15-24 (from the message)	Patti and Jerry Lovell

The Inner Conflict

Yes. I'm full of myself—after all, I've spent a long time in sin's prison. What I don't understand about myself is that I decide one way, but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise. So if I can't be trusted to figure out what is best for myself and then do it, it becomes obvious that God's command is necessary.

But I need something more! For if I know the law but still can't keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! I realize that I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't do it. I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time.

It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.

I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question?

Declaration of Forgiveness		Rev. Horton
Passing the Peace	"May the peace of Christ be with you." Please share the peace with those around you.	

Centering

Gospel Reading	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 (from the message)	Amy Smith Golden
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"How can I account for this generation? The people have been like spoiled children whining to their parents, 'We wanted to skip rope, and you were always too tired; we wanted to talk, but you were always too busy.' John came fasting and they called him crazy. I came feasting and they called me a lush, a friend of the riffraff. Opinion polls don't count for much, do they? The proof of the pudding is in the eating."

Abruptly Jesus broke into prayer: "Thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth. You've concealed your ways from sophisticates and know-it-alls, but spelled them out clearly to ordinary people. Yes, Father, that's the way you like to work."

Jesus resumed talking to the people, but now tenderly. "The Father has given me all these things to do and say. This is a unique Father-Son operation, coming out of Father and Son intimacies and knowledge. No one knows the Son the way the Father does, nor the Father the way the Son does. But I'm not keeping it to myself; I'm ready to go over it line by line with anyone willing to listen.

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Horton

Proclaiming

Scripture

Genesis 24: 34-67
(from the New Revised Standard Version)

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Sermon

"Create and Connect: God as Matchmaker"

Responding

Invitation to Give

Rev. Horton

Hymn

"Be Thou My Vision"

Ellen Peterson

Sending

Benediction

Postlude

"My Country 'Tis of Thee"
[Traditional Hymn]

Robert Wilson

Join our **"Fellowship & Prayer Concerns" Zoom Chat**
after worship from 12-12:30pm and catch up with your church friends!

Follow this Link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/207685007?pwd=SIBsZzhlbkEwUFJwb0lEaWFXbWJNQ09>

Meeting ID: 207 685 007 Password: 3n7IX8

WEEKLY CALENDAR

July 5:

- 9:45AM** Adult Bible Study **via Zoom**
11:00AM Worship online **via YouTube and Facebook**
12:00PM Fellowship & Prayer Concerns **via Zoom**

July 7:

- 12:00PM** 2CFAR: Crucial Conversations on Faith and Race
Every week on Tuesday via Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87341918684?pwd=N1pCSno2Tlp4bDdOREtoVGIsLzdGUT09>
Meeting ID: 873 4191 8684 **Password:** 222495
- 7:00PM** Children's Ministry Team Meeting via Zoom
- 7:00PM** Adult Book Study:
White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism,
written by Dr. Robin DiAngelo. Order your copy wherever books are
sold. Please ask Rev. June (jgrubb3@triad.rr.com) or
Stacy (sosebeewest@hotmail.com) if you need assistance.

July 8:

- 6:00PM** Middle School Youth Group via Zoom

July 12: **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

- 9:45AM** Adult Bible Study
11:00AM Worship online **via YouTube and Facebook**
12:00PM Fellowship & Prayer Concerns **via Zoom**
TBD Consistory Meeting **via Zoom**

~JULY~

BIRTHDAYS

- 5th**
Paula Lopp
- 7th**
Cheryl Walser
Carolyn Yocum
- 9th**
Jacob Hartle
Mary Jo Jessup
- 11th**
Jonathan Odom

ANNIVERSARIES

- 8th**
Frank & Beth Callicutt

OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

OUR MEMBERS:

Jeff Hutchens, Deanna Michael, Aurelia Smith, Kelly Greathouse, Susan Miller, Bill Walser

AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

Peggy Bates, Janelle Bunn, Marzell Crofts, Ruth Essick, Margot Everhart, Pattie Everhart, Vogen Everhart, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, Marguerite Leonard, Bob Shaak, Lib Sink, Katherine Skipper, Carolyn Spivey, Adena Wall

Piedmont Crossing:

Mary Berrier, Doris Flynt

OUR FRIENDS: *Ashley Thomason Hutcheson (Heidi and Ron Hutcheson's daughter-in-law), Grayson Beck (Grandson of Clifton & Harriette Murphy), Angie Bouchard (Lee and Ellen Bouchard's youngest daughter)

**Indicates newly added. Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks. To add a name to the prayer list please fill out a prayer request card located on the backs of the pews or call the church office (336-248-2617).*