

## Welcome to the Worship of God!

Welcome! We hope the service touched your heart and spoke to your mind. Let us know how we might ever be of service. Feel free to call Pastor Ken at 732-501-6373 if you ever need assistance, have suggestions or just need a prayer.

Your ushers today are Elizabeth Martinson and Kim Whitefield.

### Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Friday 9:00-1:30

Wednesday: 9:00-1:00

### Updated Worship Schedule

9/22 LL DuBreuil, 9/29 Ken Macari, 10/6 Shelley Gardner, 10/13 Linda Macari



## A Service for the Worship of God

10:30 a.m. 17th Sunday after Pentecost Sept. 15, 2024

### Gathering Around God's Word

**Prelude** "Pavane", by Ravel

LuYang Liu

### **Greetings and Welcome**

Leader: The gifts of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*(A special welcome to our guest preacher Linwood Bagby.)*

### **Call to Worship and Opening Prayer** *(based on Psalm 19 & Wisdom of Solomon 7.26- 8.1)*

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God.

**People: With Wisdom, we rejoice, knowing the streets are full of God's glory!**

Leader: The sky proclaims God's handiwork.

**People: With Wisdom, we rejoice, worshiping in the sanctuary of creation!**

Leader: The ways of the Holy One make wise the simple.

**People: With Wisdom, we rejoice, sharing in the oneness of love.**

**All: Let's worship the Holy One in the streets, sanctuaries and squares!**

**\*Opening Hymn 151, verses 1 + 4 "Crown Him With Many Crowns"**

### **Prayer of Confession**

Leader: Let us trust God's mercy and enter the liberating waters of forgiveness and grace. Together, let us boldly confess our sins and acknowledge our need for forgiveness.

**All: You call out to us, Holy God, from city streets, town squares and cattle gates, but we refuse to listen. Preoccupied with our projections of you, we fail to see how these thoughts disrupt our communion with each other. You offer an outstretched hand to join you in transforming our lives, but we deny such a dance with Divinity is possible, choosing complacency to your counsel. Forgive us, Logos of Love, when we ignore your unremitting call to live in the way of love. By your mercy, may we heed your call to examine our foolishness so we may live as fools for Christ's sake. Amen.**

### **Declaration of Forgiveness**

Leader: Beloved friends, receive the good news: the Risen Christ enters all corners of our lives and declares us forgiven.

**People: Having been forgiven, we take up Wisdom's way of knowing, embracing it as we journey toward wholeness and peace. Thanks be to God.**

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The Fanwood Presbyterian Church  
74 South Martine Avenue  
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**\*Gloria Patri (Hymn 579)**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, Amen.**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you. (or Peace be with you. or Peace.)

**Response: And also with you.**

**Joys and Concerns**

**Announcements**

**Hearing God's Word**

**Children's Message**

*(The children, preschool through fifth grade, may leave for church school after the message.)*

**First Reading** Matthew 7:7-12

**Second Reading** Psalms 120

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Prayer of Illumination**

Speak to us, Spirit of Knowledge, so that we may focus on divine things. Pour out your Wisdom upon us so we may respond by taking up our cross and following you. Amen.

**Song Before Sermon** "He Has Made Me Glad"

**Message** "Journey Towards Worship"

Linwood Bagby

**Call for the Offering**

In Mark, Jesus asks the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" This question serves as a call to action for us to express and share the transformative and healing love of God that we experience in our lives through our generous giving of tithes and offerings.

**Responding to God's Word**

**\*Offering Song** "There Was Jesus"

**Hymn of Dedication 391, verses 1 + 3** "Take My Life"

**Prayer of Dedication**

God who witnesses the cries and shouts of creation and receives our tithes and offerings. May our streets be filled with jubilation, our cities be embraced by peace, and our lives be blessed with abundance. Amen.

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

Leader: From before the world's foundations, your love is the energy of our lives. Hear these prayers from your people, God, as we pray the prayer our Savior taught us:

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

**\*Sending Song** "Sing Sing Sing"

**\*Charge and Benediction**

God sends us to cities and squares, corners and gates; we go listening for the words of the prophets. The Risen Christ goes before us to proclaim good news; we follow, bearing witness to the lives around us. The Spirit of Love accompanies into the playground of creation; we join her in becoming the beloved community. The Trinity holds us in all variety, complexity, and diversity of love. In the embrace of their sacred dance, we reside with profound wisdom and deep understanding, loving as they love us.

**\*Postlude** "Same God"

Luyang Liu

**Recent Prayer Requests**

We pray for Theodosia Ashie and her family, as they grieve the loss of Theodosia's mother, Eyad and Kristina Khalifeh and Raine Grace Khalifeh, the family of Betty Zwicky, the family of Doug Clausen, Janet Schott and her family, The Miller family who just lost Russ' mom, Alice Miller; and the following as they grieve: the families of Russ Charnock, Emily Sena, Judy Walsh, Rob and Roseanne Lindemann. We also pray for Jillian Knetchtel's mother, Susanne Stamm, Mary Jankowski, Bill Murphy, Linda's uncle, the Herrlich family, Ellie Kramps, Betty Gustafson, Liz Henderson, Betty Sharrett, Jeannie, friend of MaryAnn Miller; Jim Tway, Rev. Charlie Sutton and his wife Mary, Marshall and Bandto, the people in countries at war. If there are matters of concern or thanksgiving you would like included in our prayers or if you would like a name removed from the list, please fill out the prayer request portion of the connection card and put them into the offering or contact Lindsay at Fanwoodpres@gmail.com.