



INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

2nd Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 5)

June 6, 2021



C.J. Briggs, Music Director
Julie Lehmann, Secretary

Carol Tomasko, Liturgist
Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

Those twelve stones, which they had taken out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal... When your children ask: "What do these stones mean?" Then you will let your children know: "Israel crossed over the Jordan here."

~ Joshua 4:20-22

~ **GATHERING** ~

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (*1 Peter 2:4-5*)

Come to the Lord, a living stone, precious in God's sight,
like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house.

PRELUDE

THE WATER IS WIDE Joe Stern & C.J. Briggs
arr. by Brant Adams

CALL TO WORSHIP (*based on Joshua 24*)

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel and summoned the elders.
They presented themselves before God.

Joshua said to all the people:

“Now worship the Lord, and serve God in sincerity and faithfulness.

Choose this day whom you will serve,

but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

“The Holy One our God we will serve, the Lord we will obey.”

So, Joshua made a covenant with the people that day,

and made memorials of stone and ordinances for them.

Come let us worship God.

HYMN

WAYFARING STRANGER
American Folk Song

Roud #3339

POURING OF THE WATERS OF THE RIVER JORDAN

Some of the water used in today's service comes directly from the Jordan River.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Psalm 51*)

Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love. Wipe away my wrongdoings according to your great compassion. I've sinned against you; I was born in guilt, in sin. Create a clean heart for me, God; put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me. Let me hear joy and celebration again; and sustain me with a willing spirit. Amen.

RESPONSE

LORD, HAVE MERCY
American folk melody, arr. Richard Proulx

GTG #551
LAND OF REST

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the Good News: **nothing can separate us from the love of God. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

ALLELUIA

HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH!
Caribbean melody; arr. by John L. Bell

GTG #591
HALLE HALLE

MINUTE FOR MISSION

SERVING AREA MILITARY

~ THE WORD ~

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

1 SAMUEL 3:1-10

from "The David Story"
Translation by Robert Alter

SECOND READING

JOSHUA 4:1-7

(NRSV)

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

LIVING STONES

Rev. Wigger

~ RESPONDING TO THE WORD ~

SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

TATE MCGOVERN & AVA SCHMIDT

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*the Apostle's Creed*)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

RESPONSE

DOXOLOGY

GTG #606

Words by Thomas Ken

OLD HUNDREDTH

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

COMMUNION

RISE, O CHURCH, LIKE CHRIST ARISEN

GTG #536

by Susan Palo Cherwien

SURGE ECCLESIA

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

~ *SENDING* ~

HYMN

COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

GTG #475

by Robert Robinson

NETTLETON

BENEDICTION (*from on 1 Peter 2*)

PRELUDE

ETUDE OP. 10 NO. 1

Frederic Chopin

A small reception with coffee and tea will be in the gathering room.

Pieces of today's liturgy are from: *The Book of Common Worship*, PC(USA);
the Confirmation Rite was written by Rev. Dr. Veronica Goines.

GTG = "Glory to God" Hymnal; (NRSV) = New Revised Standard Version

Today's Worship: Service of Confirmation

Tate McGovern & Ava Schmidt

The liturgy for today's service is based on what was studied in the Confirmation Class this year. The Confirmation Rite comes from the Rev. Dr. Veronica Goines and is based on both the Israelite river crossing and folk coming of age rites from Africa.

A big thank you to *Ryan Smith* and *Karen Shallcross* for serving as confirmation mentors.

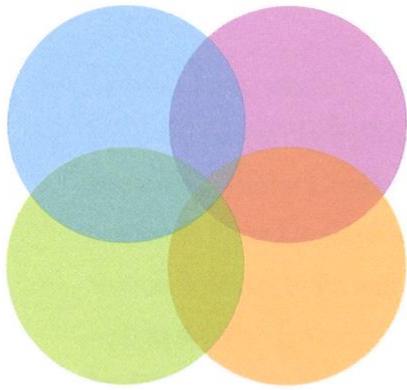
Special thanks to Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple and St. Michael's Catholic Church for welcoming our class for worship this year.

About the Confirmation Gifts

During the service, the confirmands will be presented with three gifts, related to the confirmation curriculum. The first is a *Holy Bible*. The confirmands are "crossing over" into the adult life of the congregation. Today they receive an "adult" Bible, personalized with their name, as a reminder of this new stage of faith they are entering.

They also will receive a *towel / stole* with stitching that reads "*IPC Confirmation June 6, 2021.*" The symbolism of this gift is twofold: 1) it is presented as a reminder of their "river crossing" and the support they received along the way, and the support they will continue to receive on this side of the river. 2) It is a reminder of Christ's washing the feet of the disciples before the last supper. The towel/stole is a call to service; a symbol of the instruction that our faith must be lived, and that we are commanded to "love one another".

Lastly, they will receive a *stone cairn*. Like the Israelites who crossed the Jordan river carrying twelve stones, one for each tribe, so too the confirmands receive these stones as "a memorial forever" (Joshua 4:7) of their crossing over.



BIG GOD

BIG QUESTIONS

CONFIRMATION FOR A GROWING FAITH

The word confirm, from the Latin confirmare, means “to strengthen.” At Confirmation, the Holy Spirit and the church’s prayers strengthen those who are being confirmed. Confirmation is a transition—a commencement, not a graduation. Confirmation is not meant as a crash course in Christianity, but an opportunity to welcome youth into an intentional time of discernment and conversations about faith, exploring the BIG Questions so that the confirmands can make a faithful response.

~ BIG God, BIG Questions, Teacher’s Guide

The Confirmands followed a 12-Session Curriculum from PC(USA) titled *Big God, Big Questions*. Each lesson concentrated on one part of the questions the confirmands answer today as they become members of the congregation:

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you reject sin and evil and its power in the world? **I do.**

Who is your Lord and Savior? **Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**

Will you be Christ’s faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love? **I will, with God’s help.**

Will you devote yourself to the church’s teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers? **I will, with God’s help.**