

POLLOCKSVILLE

P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H



March 22, 2020

Pastor: The Reverend Thomas Wesley Moore, IV

Organist/Choir Director: Gera Howe

311 Main Street / P O Box 205 / Pollocksville, NC 28573

www.PollocksvillePresbyterian.org

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Pollocksville Presbyterian Church

4th Sunday in Lent

Order of Worship

11:00 a.m.

March 22, 2020

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (*Responsive*) (Source- *Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchel*)

When we pass through the waters,

God is there with us.

When we suffer and feel hopeless,

God is there with us.

When we are joyful and celebratory,

God is there with us.

Whether we feel triumphant or defeated,

God is there with us, always.

Come, let us worship together with Emmanuel, God with us.

Prayer of Invocation

*The Peace of Christ

Leader: ...The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

*Opening Hymn

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

See Insert

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession (Source- *Book of Common Worship*)

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have
left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and
strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk
in your ways to the glory of your holy name.**

Silence is observed

Assurance of Pardon *(Responsive)* (Source- *Psalm 103:17*)

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Ephesians 5:6-14

Sermon “*Healer of Our Every Ill*” ~ *Rev. Thomas Wesley Moore, IV*

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Morning Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

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.

*Affirmation of Faith

*The Apostles’ 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.

*Gloria Patri

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.

*Closing Hymn

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

See Insert

*Charge and Benediction

*Please rise in body or spirit
Bold: Congregation Speaks



Welcome to everyone who is worshipping with us today.

If you are looking for a church home, please feel free to join us.

Our membership is open to all. Please see the Pastor or one of the Elders if you wish to join our Church Family. Welcome to all!



For Congregational Use: Lectionary Readings:

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Daily Readings for March 22 – 28 use the following web link:

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/devotions/month-month-lectionary-reading-list/>



Today is *Building Fund Sunday*. All contributions given, unless otherwise designated, will go the Church Building Fund.

A Nursery is provided

Today: *Sheron Bender*

March 29th: *Volunteer Needed*

Ushers

March – *Vic Bryan & Jerry Burkot*

April – *Ed Edmondson & Billy Sobotor*



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Website: www.pollocksvillepresbyterian.org

Phone 252-224-8181 or fwaters@pollocksvillepresbyterian.org

Office hours are *Mon-Fri 9am - 1 pm*



Prayer List

Hazel Ann Atkinson, Hilda Bender, Julia Bender (In Brook Stone Living Center, Pollocksville, Rm# 101), Penny Bender, Layah Collins (One of our Childcare Family), Elizabeth Cooper (Great great niece of Shirley & Vic Byran), Betty DuVal (Home Place Assisted Living in New Bern, Rm# 212), Shirley Eubanks (Rm# 211 - Brook Stone Living Center, Pollocksville), Cliff Griswold (Rehab – Carolina East Medical Center), Sybil Harriett (In the Courtyards at Berne Village), Ray Hemphill, Jimmie Hill (Felicia Klingensmith's Father – In Brook Stone Living Center, Pollocksville), Debbie Kocher (Amber Swanger's mother), Johnny McKeel (April Bender McKeel's husband), Ellen Bender Melton (Jane Sobotor's Mother), Linda & Forrest Minges, Jr., Chris Moore, Jackie Morris (requested by Shirley Bryan), Susan Pittman, Pollocksville Presbyterian Church & Childcare, Russell Ray (Hilda Bender's nephew), Edna Smith (requested by Barbara Smith), Justin Woolard.

Pray for the entire human family as we move forward during this pandemic.

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies 662



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies; Christ, the true, the on - ly light;
 2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa-nied by thee;
 3 Vis - it then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of Righ-teous-ness, a - rise; tri-umph o'er the shades of night;
 joy - less is the day's re - turn till thy mer - cy's beams I see;
 fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
 till they in - ward light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.
 more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.



This well-crafted morning hymn opens by celebrating daylight as an image of Christ, the true Light, then ponders life without light, and culminates in a prayer for inward light. The tune's name honors its German roots: Ratisbon is the former English name for Regensburg.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1740

MUSIC: German folk melody; adapt. Johann Werner, 1815; harm. William Henry Havergal, 1847

RATISBON

7.7.7.7.7

In the Cross of Christ I Glory 213

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing,
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the
 5 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing

o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of sa - cred
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the cross for -
 love up - on my way, from the cross the ra - diance
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that knows no
 o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of sa - cred

sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
 mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bid.
 sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.

Like Isaac Watts's "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (nos. 223, 224), this hymn is a reflection on Galatians 6:14, but this text is more abstract and devotes no attention to the person hanging on the cross. The tune is named for a soloist in the composer's Connecticut choir.

“Healer of Our Every Ill”
Ephesians 5:6-14
Pollocksville Presbyterian Church
3.22.20
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Second Sunday in the COVID-19 Pandemic
Sermon #48

Ephesians 5:6-14 Common English Bible (CEB)

6 Nobody should deceive you with stupid ideas. God’s anger comes down on those who are disobedient because of this kind of thing. 7 So you shouldn’t have anything to do with them. 8 You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord, so live your life as children of light. 9 Light produces fruit that consists of every sort of goodness, justice, and truth. 10 Therefore, test everything to see what’s pleasing to the Lord, 11 and don’t participate in the unfruitful actions of darkness. Instead, you should reveal the truth about them. 12 It’s embarrassing to even talk about what certain persons do in secret. 13 But everything exposed to the light is revealed by the light. 14 Everything that is revealed by the light is light. Therefore, it says, Wake up, sleeper! Get up from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

The Word of the LORD. Thanks be to God.

Let us pray: May the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O God, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

When I had done some worship planning earlier this year, I made an intentional effort to name my sermons after one of the hymns we would sing in the service during Lent. For example, “Grace Greater than Our Sin” was on March 1. March 8 was “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”. Last week was “O God, Who Gives Us Life”. This week is “Healer of Our Every Ill”. Yet, we’ve had to make adjustments during this time and.....I’m a pragmatist, not a purist. Sometimes you have to adapt your plans, which, for each of us right now in this room or those listening online, adapting is what we’re all doing.

Even though the hymn is not being sung by all of us, I can sing some of it for you:

Healer of our every ill,
Light of each tomorrow,
Give us peace beyond our fear,
And hope beyond our sorrow.

Honestly, these words, which are the refrain to the hymn, have given me a lot of hope. I’m sure for the church in Ephesus, they needed a word, too.

For that particular congregation in Ephesus, as some scholars believe, they were mainly a Gentile community. There was temptation to behave not as children of light, but as children of ignorance. Remember, Rome ruled. And Rome dictated what was appropriate and inappropriate behavior. Lots of temptation to act foolish and not as children of the LORD. Not as children of light. And Paul is calling them out on it.

For these converts, they need to be reminded of who they are and whose they are. They are Christians and they are children of light. Not children of ignorance. These new converts are still tempted to live lifestyles contrary to the gospel—greed, impurity, and corruption. These Christians in Ephesus must be reminded, like we have to be reminded, that it is through Christ

our LORD we have new life. And it is in that new life, the light shines on our ignorance and we are to behave appropriately.

For many in this ancient congregation, there was an illness. It wasn't necessarily physical, but a spiritual illness.....or maybe another phrase could be "spiritual conflict". Even though they were converts, that didn't mean they would easily turn from their old ways. This illness or this conflict would be something they would have to deal with. Yet, as Paul continues in this letter and, right here in Ephesians 5:6-14, the light of the LORD will shine. The light will shine and will guide us to act as God's children instead of children in ignorance. And again, it's not a one and done thing.....it's a lifelong process.

I think what ticks Paul off the most in these verses we've read together is that these Christians are being seduced by other Christians. They've tried to act out of their own self-interests and impulses that they look no better than the people ruling from Rome. Yet, Paul is calling for each person to be exposed to the light. To live in the light. To call on the light of God to reveal what is fruitful behavior and what is dangerous behavior.

I keep going back to the words I sang earlier. As I've said before, we are seeing behavior across the spectrum in response to COVID-19. I see the good and want to lift that up! I also see the bad: Hoarding, recklessness, fear, selfishness, etc. Yet, I can't help but sing:

Healer of our every ill,
Light of each tomorrow,
Give us peace beyond our fear,
And hope beyond our sorrow.

These words were written 34 years ago. Marty Haugen, who wrote the words and music, was in Washington State when the space shuttle Challenger crashed shortly before takeoff and composed this refrain as a response.

Yes, our God physically heals. And we certainly need that, no doubt. Our God also heals the wounds that are not physical. God Our LORD heals the fear. Our LORD heals the sorrow. Our LORD gives us a Spirit of comfort, light, kindness, and compassion to face each day.....knowing that each day can be a struggle, just like it was for our spiritual ancestors in Ephesus.

Siblings in Christ, I wish I could tell you how it will all work out. But, we know that's not possible. We don't know how long this situation will last. We don't know what's next. But, we do know we are children of light. We are children of the LORD and we are to act like it. We are to bring a word of peace to frightened people we will continue to see. We are to be a non-anxious presence as we go through the grocery store. We are to be the loving presence our world needs to see.

Let us go forward in hope, peace, faith, and love knowing that the Spirit has blazed the trail for us throughout these uncertain days ahead.

In the name of God the Creator, God the Redeemer, and God the Sustainer. Amen.