



October 10, 2021

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Thanks to Carlos Browne for sharing his gift of music with us.

Call to Worship

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim Your praise.

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power for You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created.

Scripture

Mark 12:29-31

Gail Anderson

Hymn

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

#353

What is a hope you have for yourself and/or your family in the coming year?

Pastor Erin

Scripture

Romans 5:1-5

Telling the Truth

Creator, it is easy to allow our fear to take over our hope. We long for more love, connection and provision for our lives. We confess we don't ask You. Stir in us the courage. We need Your hopes for us to anchor us in the Spirit. In Jesus, name we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Moment for Reflection

What is a hope you have for First Presbyterian church of Rahway's community in the coming year?

Al Shipley

Scripture

Luke 10:25-37

Telling the Truth (adapted from Rev. Heather A. Moody)

Holy God, Your cry for wisdom and understanding echoes in our homes, our workplaces, our schools, our church committee meetings, our legislatures and our courts. We confess we don't always want to hear that cry, deciding instead to rely on familiar habits, comfortable assumptions, and quick conclusions. We ask You to show us another way, O God.

Show us another way.

Merciful God, the apostle Paul proclaims peace, hope, and grace are Your gifts to us. And yet there are times when grief overwhelms us, anxiety holds us captive, and suffering leaves us numb with despair. We wonder how, even *if* You are at work in our lives, and we long for You to show us another way, O God.

Show us another way.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, hear this great good news: God continually shows us another way. God's mercy is as wide as the ocean. God's desire to forgive is as strong as the mighty wind. So let your hearts receive the outpouring of God's love through the Holy Spirit.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you

Hymn

God of Grace, God of Glory

#307

Affirmation of Faith (written by Sarah Are www.sanctifiedart.org)

I believe in God, the Great Sewer—who weaves us together in community, collecting our loose ends and turning them into belonging.

I believe in the Holy Spirit—who hems us in before and behind, catching us when we fall and writing us into God's holy narrative.

And I believe in Jesus Christ—who loved and claimed the people society had thrown out, refusing to disregard anyone as scrap.

I believe God has woven part of God's self into the fiber of our being, making us inherently worthy of love and belonging.

I believe the fabric of my life is weak, that I am prone to error and need God's handiwork to remind me of love.

I believe in the Church, and that like a quilt of different fabrics, She is designed to be as diverse and beautiful as God's creation.

And I believe that when life unravels, God is there to stitch my wounds together, to hold me in the palm of God's hand, to tell me of love, and to invite me into a new journey.

Moment for Reflection

Hymn

The Church's One Foundation

#321

What is a hope that you have for the Christian church in the coming year?

Tara Crowley

Scripture

John 17:6-26

Telling the Truth

Creative God, we confess we have stifled Your spirit. We are quick to defend the institution of the Church and not the body of Christ. How comfortable we become with traditions and can't show how they can connect us with You. Instead, we lose connection with people who are looking for You.

Help us to live as the body of Christ, boldly on the side of the vulnerable and speaking truth into our world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Hymn

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

#541

Pastoral Prayer with Lord's Prayer

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.

Offering

Blessing