

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**MAY 1, 2022**

*Will what is molded say to the one who molds it,  
“Why have you made me like this?”*



*Has the potter no right over the clay?  
(Romans 9:20-21)*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA**

**The Third Sunday Of Easter**  
**May 1, 2022**

**A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD**

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

MINUTE FOR MISSION **CWS Backpacks** *Cindy Cooke, PW*

ANNOUNCEMENTS *Elder JoAnn Tigert, Co-chair of Worship*

PRELUDE *Mr. Otto W. Pebworth*

CALL TO WORSHIP *Revelation 5:11-14*

L: Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice,

**P: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"**

L: Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

**P: "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"**

L: And the four living creatures said,

**P: "Amen!"**

L: And the elders fell down and worshiped.

**\*HYMN #369** "Blessing and Honor"

**\*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION**

L: Let us offer our mutual prayer of confession:  
You break in, O God, on the road  
You break in, O God, a way we do not believe  
You break in, O God, and change everything

**P: Why are your stories never mundane  
Why can you not just leave us alone  
and go and transform somewhere else  
that is not as certain and sure of you  
You just disrupt us and cause anxiety  
We are not people of change**

L: You break in, O God with a call  
you break in, O God with an invitation  
you break in, O God with the truth

**P: Why do you wait for us to respond & never give up?  
Why do you speak into our souls  
the truth of how we live?  
Why do you keep goading us, provoking us  
disturbing us with the truth?**

L: You break in, O God with a new realm  
You break in, O God with a new world  
You break in, O God with your intent for the future

**P: You always are a challenge to us and we dream of  
that realm of yours we speak of so often  
but what disturbs us most is how you want to get  
there through us, your partners and companions,  
with space enough for everyone  
even those who persecute you by doing nothing**

L: God, break in again and call us to be your workers  
God, break in again and use the gifts we are  
to build your realm  
God, break in again and change our world once  
more. So be it.  
Let us come before God with our silent prayers of  
confession:

*(Silent Confession)*

#### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

L: Even as we struggle with the reality of the Kingdom,  
God extends his forgiveness to us  
over and over again.

This is the good news of the Gospel,  
in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**P: Thanks be to God!**

**\*THE GLORIA #581**

**\*RECONCILIATION WITH ONE ANOTHER**

L: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

**P: And also with you!**

**THE OFFERING**

**Call**

**The Anthem**

**The Doxology #606**

*Old Hundredth*

**The Dedication**

**THE OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Isaiah 3:8-15

L: This is the Word of the Lord!

**P: Thanks be to God!**

**THE NEW TESTAMENT READING**

Romans 9:18-24

L: This is the Word of the Lord!

**P: Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

"The Apostle Paul                    *Elder Bill Engle*  
and the Local Response to the Gospel: Romans 9-11"

**+ THE SEALING OF THE WORD +**

*JoAnn Tigert, Commissioned Ruling Elder*

*Authorized by the Shenandoah Presbytery for the  
Sacrament of Communion at First Presbyterian Staunton,  
presiding*

**Invitation to the Table**

**Great Prayer Of Thanksgiving**

L: Beloved, the Holy One is with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**P: We lift them up to our God.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Holy One our God.

**P: It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

L: We thank you, God, for you create us in love,  
claim us as your own,  
and make covenant with us to be our God.

**P: You set us free from all that oppresses us  
outside us and within;  
you bring us back to one another,  
and journey with us toward your shalom.**

L: You who are thirsty,  
come and buy drink without money.  
You who are hungry, come and eat, and be satisfied.

**P: For your Word is the bread of life;  
nothing else do we desire.  
We come to your table with all Creation,  
proclaiming your praise:  
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts,  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the One who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

L: Blessed are all who come in your name and  
bear your love, and blessed is Jesus, your Christ.

**P: He loved and taught,  
healed and gathered a new community of grace.**

L: Resisting the temptations of doubt and disbelief,  
We relied solely on him, and so, in faithfulness,  
Christ is our leader and model.

**P: Resisting the temptations of worldly power,  
he opened to us the Empire of your Grace,  
and so, in love, he became our sovereign.**

L: For the sake of love he went to the cross  
and rose from the grave.  
In that love, He is our Savior.  
With gratitude we remember these,  
your mighty acts in Jesus Christ.

**P: Therefore we offer ourselves in praise and  
thanksgiving as a living and holy sacrifice,  
in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery at the heart of our faith:**

**Christ has died!  
Christ is risen!  
Christ will come again!**

L: Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread  
and cup, that they may be for us  
the Body and Blood of Christ.

**P: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us,  
that we may be the Body of Christ.**

L: By your Holy Spirit lead us in this Easter Season  
to celebrate you.

**P: May your Word be the bread of our life.**

L: May your grace be our only security.

**P: May the Realm of your Love be our only Empire,  
to your glory, now and forever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer Hymnal pg. 35

The Words of Institution

Sharing in the Bread and Cup

The Prayer After Communion

+ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD +

HYMN #852 "When the Lord Redeems the Very Least"

*Up tempo!*

BLESSING

\* POSTLUDE

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Pastor Karen Returns**

*Pastor Karen returns from Study Leave on Wednesday, May 4.*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

*The Prayer of Confession was written by Rev. Roddy Hamilton,  
Minister of New Kilpatrick Church, the Church of Scotland.*

*The Communion Liturgy was adapted for the Easter Season from the work of  
Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes.*

**ELDERS, CLASS OF 2022**

Sam Clem, Congregational Life;  
Bill Engle, Mission; JoAnn Tigert, Worship

**ELDERS, CLASS OF 2023**

Amanda Avery, Worship; Ron Lowman, Property

**ELDERS, CLASS OF 2024**

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Dr. Renee Huff, Director of Music Ministries  
Mr. Otto W. Pebworth, Organist  
Ms. Amy Armstrong, Worship Fellowship  
Ms. Heidi Marsh, Office Administrator  
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Mr. Charlie Trumbo, Building and Grounds

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## LETTER TO THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATION

April 27, 2022

Dear Members and Friends,

The Session of First Presbyterian Staunton is inviting you to participate in listening sessions conducted by the committee on Pastoral Relations of the Presbytery. The listening team is made up of volunteers from elsewhere in the presbytery comprised of three Teaching Elders and four Ruling elders. The purpose of the listening sessions is to confidentially share questions and concerns about the leadership and direction of the congregation. The information gathered will help the session determine steps for the congregation moving forward.

The Listening sessions will be conducted during the month of May. In groups of 1 or 2 you will sign up for a slot to meet either in person, by zoom or by phone. In person opportunities will be on Saturday May 7, 14, 21 from 10:00-3:00. Monday May 9 and 16 from 10:30-12:00. Wednesday evening May 18 from 7:00-9:00 pm.

All in person meetings will happen at First Staunton except for Saturday May 14. Since that is graduation weekend at Mary Baldwin the in-person meetings will be held at Third Staunton. Also, if you have a preference of meeting with either two males or two females, there are opportunities to do so.

If you prefer Zoom the dates for those meetings are May 12 – 1:00-3:00, May 18<sup>th</sup> 1:00-3:00, Tuesday May 24 7:00-9:00 pm.

If the best way is for you to have a phone conversation – those appointments will be Monday, the 16<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 -2:00.

Appointments are scheduled for a half hour for groups of 1 or 2. The listening teams are groups of 2 except for the phone call meetings.

Please call the church office during regular office hours to make your appointment. Also, have at least two choices for meeting times ready before calling.

Our hope is that this opportunity will help make the path clearer in moving forward into the future.