

6th Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023

11:00 am

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE

Dr. Renee Huff

(Prepare for worship in silent prayer and reflection)

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT #44 "Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us" *Dr. Renee Huff*

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

L: St. Augustine said that "True, whole prayer – is nothing but love."

P: We gather here today to envelop ourselves in love.

L: We step out of our day-to-day concerns to praise you.

P. The psalmist says "Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise."

L: We praise you for loving us.

***HYMN #395** "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"

CALL TO CONFESSION

As we return again and again to God in need of God's grace, let us now turn to God, confessing the ways we fall short of what God hopes for us. Let us offer this unison prayer of confession:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess that we are more ready to resent than to forgive, more ready to manipulate than to serve, more ready to fear than to love, more ready to keep our distance than to welcome, more ready to compete than to help. At the root of this behavior is mistrust. We do not love one another as we should, because we do not believe that you love us as you do. Forgive us our cold unbelief. We ask this in the name of Jesus our righteousness. Amen.

- Silent Confession -

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

As we turn to the Lord, we find the One who has already turned to us in mercy and who freely pardons. This is the assurance of prayer – and also its greatest blessing.

Because you have first sought me, I seek you, O Lord. Because you have called to me, I call to you.

***THE GLORIA #581** "Glory to God"

***RECONCILIATION WITH ONE ANOTHER**

L: Let us greet each other here and online with the words
"May the peace of Christ be with you!"

P: And also with you!

THE FIRST READING

Psalm 116: 1-2

THE SECOND READING

John 14:15-21

L: This is the Word of the Lord!

P: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Advocating for Love" *Rev. Melissa Harmon*

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

Father, As we lay before you our financial offering, we give you all that we are and everything that you have entrusted to us. Come bless these gifts for the sake of your Kingdom and glory. Amen.

The Anthem

Dr. Renee Huff

The Doxology #606

Old Hundredth

The Dedication

Lord, you are the giver of every good gift. Accept these offerings we pray, that through them we may do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with you, our Sovereign and our God.

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

+ BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD +

***HYMN #425** "Son of God, Whose Heart is Peace"

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived of 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.

*BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE WELCOME REV. MELISSA HARMON to our pulpit today!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND LUNCH DATE

CHANGE The date for the Annual Congregational Meeting has been changed to **Sunday, June 4**, immediately after worship due to the fact that the original date set is on MBU graduation weekend. Please join us for the meeting and for lunch in the Fellowship Hall immediately afterwards.

Pizza and drinks will be provided. The congregation is asked to bring salads and desserts. Please let Heidi know if you plan to attend via email at stauntonfirst@gmail.com or call 540-886-0704.

MOTHER'S DAY REFRESHMENTS All are invited to gather in the back of the sanctuary today after worship for refreshments to celebrate Mother's Day.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR JUNE The deadline for submissions for the June 2023 issue of First Impressions is **Monday, May 15**. Please submit any info you would like to include by then.

PW EVENING CIRCLE will meet **Tuesday, May 16** at 6:00pm in the Library. Donna Goble will provide a main dish for our May meeting, so please bring a side dish or dessert to share. If you do not have time to prepare anything, please come anyway. We always have plenty.

Please respond to Heidi if you can make it. And feel free to bring guests – all are welcome!

If you have questions, comments, suggestions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Susie Lendermon.

HEIDI WILL BE ON VACATION Friday, May 26-Tuesday, June 6, returning Wednesday, June 7. Fay Knicley will be filling in during this time. Thank you!

Elders

Class of 2023

Amanda Avery, Worship
Ron Lowman, Jr., Property

Class of 2024

Sam Clem, Administration/Discipleship
Mary Meade, Worship
Barbara Richardson, Congregational Life

Class of 2025

Stephany Morgan, Missions & Outreach
Bret Ritchie, Administration
Hugh Sproul, Administration
Paige Kullman, Clerk

Staff

Dr. Renee Huff, Minister of Music
Heidi Marsh, Office Manager
Mona Tate, Nursery Attendant
Charlie Trumbo, Buildings and Grounds

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

100 E. Frederick Street, Staunton, VA 24401
540-886-0704; stauntonfirst@gmail.com
www.1stpres-staunton.org
Facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchStaunton

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