

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Opening Prayer

Leader: The wicked show no mercy to their neighbors.

People: The wise show no contempt toward anyone.

Leader: The poor and lowly plead for mercy.

People: The proud show no respect and withhold dignity from them.

Leader: Jesus says let the one without sin be the first to condemn.

People: Come! Let us go to the Lord and resolve to become wise. May we learn the ways of mercy and enact the ways of forbearance, that we may show the love of God to the world and save it. Let us pray...

Pastor Jim: Almighty God, you have taught us that every deed without love is worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts the most excellent gift of mercy. Bring an end to the contemptuousness and proud arrogance of this age. Help us transform human society with forbearance and compassion before it is too late. We ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Confession of Sin

Leader: Today we come before our divine parent not as despised sinners, but as beloved children. With the confidence of children of God, let us humbly confess our sin and find pardon for them.

People: O Lord our God, you call us to work for a world where all are treated with dignity and respect, but we find ourselves distracted by the hatefulness and cruel pettiness of our times. You call and set us apart to demonstrate the higher ways of mercy and forgiveness, but we have settled for lower ways of hard-heartedness and chastisement. Forgive us God of free grace and compassion! Turn us back to your long-suffering and lenient ways, so that all may come to know the peace you offer,

the peace that surpasses all understand. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen!

Pardon of Sin

Pastor Jim: Children of God, believe the good news: through our heartfelt and truthful confession, and by the wisdom and grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

Pastor Jim: The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it. We have returned the first and best of what God has given us, so that his will may be done, and his kingdom draw nearer; therefore, let us pray, dedicating our gifts to these holy purposes.

Blessed are you, O God, for you are the maker and provider of all things. You have blessed us with many gifts, including all our possessions. Not one thing is ours to use as we see fit. All things are to be used to spread your Word and demonstrate our mercy to the world, so that the world may turn to you, and find its salvation. Use us and what we have gathered this morning to showing your love to the world. We ask this through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen!

Musical Prayer for Illumination

Scripture *(see below)*

Psalm 123 (NLT)

Proverbs 18:23, 21:10 (NLT)

John 8:3-11 (NLT)

Reflection

“Show No Contempt”

Pastor Jim

Prayer of Intercession

God of mercy and all kindness, you gave your only Son, because you loved the world so much. We pray for the peace of the world. Move among us by your Spirit, break down barriers of fear, anger, suspicion, and hatred. Heal the human family of its many

divisions and unite it in the bonds of justice and peace that come from following in the footsteps of Jesus.

We pray for our country. Enrich our common life; strengthen the forces of truth and goodness; teach us to share our prosperity, that those whose lives are impoverished may pass from need and despair to dignity and joy.

We pray for all who suffer. Surround them with your love, support them with your strength, console them with your comfort, and give them hope and courage beyond themselves.

We pray for our families, for those whom we love. Protect them at home; support them in ties of difficulty and anxiety, that they may grow together in mutual love and understanding, and rest content in one another.

We pray for students and teachers returning to school. Shield them from all harm; keep them healthy and safe from disease and empower them to do all they can to keep one another well.

We pray for the church. Keep us true to the Gospel and responsive to your Word. Make known your saving power in Jesus Christ, by the witness of our faith and the kindness of our deeds.

We ask for all of this through Jesus Christ, who intercedes for us, and who taught us to pray, saying, "Our Father..."

Music

Sending and Benediction

Leader: My friends, thanks for coming and worshipping with us today. Now go in peace and serve the Lord.

Pastor Jim: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. Amen.

⁴ "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?"

⁶ They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. ⁷ They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" ⁸ Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.

⁹ When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. ¹⁰ Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?"

¹¹ "No, Lord," she said.

And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

~ John 8:4-11 (NLT)



Loveland
Presbyterian Church

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JOYS & CONCERNS

Joy for...

Aggie Gay, recovering from back surgery and thankful for your prayers and well wishes.

Pray for...

Becky Hartle whose job was eliminated and is seeking new employment.

Joyce Thalheimer's niece, Diane Richie, recently diagnosed with breast cancer.

Mike Hartle's cousin, Chris, recovering from triple bypass surgery.

Daren Lutson for relief from severe headaches.

Lisa Kopittke Hannah recovering from surgery. (*Contact Niki Price if you would like to provide food for the family.*)

Niki Price's sister, Marta, being treated for stage 4 small cell lung cancer.

Teachers, staff, and students, as our communities prepare to open schools for a new school year.

Safety for our first responders and healthcare workers.

All who are in recovery from addiction.

Our home bound - Norma Koerkel, Gene Strand, Sunni & Karl Kadon

Please keep in your hearts and prayers all the sick and shut-ins of LPC.

Please notify the LPC office of the progress and recovery of the individuals and loved ones named above. Names will appear for 2 weeks unless the office is otherwise notified.

Thank you.

BIRTHDAYS

August 25th ~ Madison Boler (*Choral Scholar*)

August 28th ~ Geoff Kasulones

August 29th ~ Mike Hartle

August 30th ~ Maggie Lutson and Don Books

ANNIVERSARIES

August 25th ~ Anna & Mike Hartle

August 28th ~ Judy & Jim Poe

LPC NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The church office remains closed through August and all committee meetings should continue to be held remotely. Please contact Pastor Jim on his cell phone or via email. You can reach Jenni on her cell phone or by the church email. Voice mail at the church will be picked up twice a week.

Join us in support of the PC(USA) for #Give828. On Aug. 28, 2020, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will be joining #Give828, a national day of giving focused specifically on supporting Black-benefiting organizations. #Give828 isn't like other fundraising campaigns. This day takes place during Black Philanthropy Month and commemorates multiple important historical landmarks in Black Americans' march toward freedom. Did you know that on:

Aug. 28, 1955: 14-year-old Emmett Till was brutally murdered by three white men, which became a "flashpoint in the civil rights movement"?

Aug. 28, 1963: The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech during the landmark March on Washington in Washington, D.C.?

Aug. 28, 2005: Hurricane Katrina made landfall in Louisiana? The storm, which devastated New Orleans, inordinately impacted many of the city's Black residents.

Aug. 28, 2008: Then-Sen. Barack Obama accepted the Democratic nomination for president, becoming the first Black man to ever win the nomination and bid for the presidency?

Your gifts to #Give828 will go to support leadership development for leaders of color by funding the Katie Geneva Cannon Scholarship and the Conference for Seminarians of Color. Donating to the campaign is one of the action steps you can take as a part of the Presbyterian Week of Action, Aug. 24–30.

Go to pcusa.org/weekofaction for more information on the Presbyterian Week of Action.

Psalm 123 (NLT)

¹ I lift my eyes to you,

O God, enthroned in heaven.

² We keep looking to the LORD our God for his mercy,
just as servants keep their eyes on their master,
as a slave girl watches her mistress for the slightest signal.

³ Have mercy on us, LORD, have mercy,
for we have had our fill of contempt.

⁴ We have had more than our fill of the scoffing of the proud
and the contempt of the arrogant.

Proverbs 18:23, 21:10 (NLT)

²³ The poor plead for mercy;
the rich answer with insults.

¹⁰ Evil people desire evil;
their neighbors get no mercy from them.

John 8:3-11 (NLT)

³ As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.

⁴ “Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?”

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