

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Opening Prayer

Leader: Proverbs 1 says that the purpose of the proverbs of the Lord is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives.

People: They will help us do what is right, just, and fair.

Leader: The proverbs of the Lord give insight to the simple-minded.

People: They will give us knowledge and discernment, so that we may serve the Lord and flourish as his people.

Leader: The fear of the Lord is the foundation of knowledge.

People: Only fools despise the Lord's wisdom and shun his discipline. Let us pray...

Pastor Jim: God of creation, you are the source of all good wisdom. Breathe your Spirit upon us in this service of worship, that we may hear and intently listen to what you are saying to us today. Help us see the value of turning from the mean and destructive ways of this foolish world. Enlighten our minds that we may more fully understand your most benevolent will and give us the acuity to do that which is wise and good for building a just and righteous community. We ask this in your holy and most precious name.

People: Amen.

Sung Call to Confession

Confession of Sin

Leader: The Apostle Paul reminds us that we have been buried with Christ in our baptism, so that we might be raised to new life with him through faith in the power of God. Trusting in God's grace, alone, let us truthfully and fully confess our sin and find pardon.

People: O Lord our God, you are the creator and disseminator of all true wisdom. Wisdom was the first thing you created, and she is, according to holy scripture, more precious in your sight than all the gold of the world. Yet we humans, in our folly and madness, fail to seek her. Your wisdom calls to us, beckoning us at every turn to accept her teachings and follow her ways, yet we foolishly close our ears to her cries

because we prefer the doctrines and behaviors of other callous and flawed humans. Forgive us, Lord, for our simple-minded approach to life! Help us repent by turning back to you. Let our restoration begin with the life-long pursuit of seeking wisdom, through which you created the world and by which you govern all living things. We ask this in the name of wisdom personified, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Pardon of Sin

Elder: Because we were buried with Christ in the waters of our baptism, we are also raised to new life with him. Believe the good news of the Gospel! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

Leader: Through this tithe, we give glory to God. Through the offering of our worldly treasures, we do our part to grow God's kingdom and make it flourish among us. Give as freely as you have freely received!

Pastor Jim: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with many gifts, including our lives, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have here gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Musical Prayer for Illumination

Scripture *(see below)*

1 Kings 3:5-14 and Proverbs 1:1-8 (NLT)

Reflection

“Wisdom Above All”

Pastor Jim

Music

Prayer of Intercession

Elder: Gracious God, because we are not strong enough to pray as we should, you provide Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit to intercede for us in power. In confidence we ask you to accept our prayers.

Faithful God, you formed your Church from the despised of the earth and showed them mercy, that they might proclaim your salvation to all. Strengthen those whom you choose today, that they may faithfully endure every trial by which you conform your Church to the cross of Christ. Creator of all, you entrusted the earth to the human race, yet we disrupt its peace with violence and corrupt its purity with our greed. Prevent your people from ravaging creation, that coming generations may inherit lands brimming and streams teeming with life.

Sovereign God, you hold both the history of nations and the humble life of villages in your care. Preserve the people of every nation from tyrants, heal them of disease, lead them to peace, and protect them in times of upheaval and disaster, that all may enter your everlasting kingdom that cannot be shaken.

God Most High, in Jesus you show us the kind of authority that pleases you, for he rules not by power or might, but serves in humble obedience to your will. We pray for all in authority over us: for our president, Donald Trump, for Congress, for our Governor, Mike Dewine, and for our state legislature. We ask that you deliver them from vain ambitions, that they may govern us in wisdom and justice.

God our faithful governor, your glory shines throughout our nation. We commend to your most merciful care our nation, state, and community, that we may live securely in peace and may be guided by your providence. Give all in authority the clarity and strength to know you will and do it. Help them remember that they are called to be lovers of your truth and promoters of your kindness and love.

Merciful God, since Jesus longed to protect Jerusalem as a hen gathers her young under her wings, we ask you to guard and strengthen all who live and work here. Deliver your people from jealousy and contempt, that we may show mercy to all their neighbors.

Compassionate God, your Son gives rest to those weary with heavy burdens. Heal the sick in body, mind, and spirit. Lift up the depressed. Befriend those who are grieving or who are lonely. Comfort the anxious. Stand with all victims of abuse and violence. Uphold those who live with addiction. Fill us all with your Holy Spirit that we may bear each other's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.

God of glory, you see how all creation groans in labor as it awaits redemption. As we work for and await your new creation, we trust that you will answer our prayers with grace, and fulfill your promise that all things work together for god for those who love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our Father..."

Sunday, July 26, 2020

Proverbs 1:1-8 NLT

¹ These are the proverbs of Solomon, David's son, king of Israel.

² Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline, to help them understand the insights of the wise.

³ Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives, to help them do what is right, just, and fair.

⁴ These proverbs will give insight to the simple, knowledge and discernment to the young.

⁵ Let the wise listen to these proverbs and become even wiser. Let those with understanding receive guidance

⁶ by exploring the meaning in these proverbs and parables, the words of the wise and their riddles.

⁷ Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

⁸ My child, listen when your father corrects you. Don't neglect your mother's instruction.



Loveland
Presbyterian Church

LOVING • PRAYING • CARING

JOYS & CONCERNS

Joy for...

The Goff's safe return from vacation.

And appreciation for Tyler Smith, on his last Sunday at LPC before starting his Choral Conducting Master's program at Western Kentucky University. *(We plan to hold a going away reception for Tyler in December, or when we can safely gather.)*

Tedi Blinkhorn's daughter, Tracey, whose ultrasound was negative.

Pray for...

LPC's Council of Session, meeting on Tuesday.

Niki Price's sister, Marta, diagnosed with brain cancer. She is at UC West Chester.

The husband of Cathy Lester (Head Start supervisor and former teacher), who recently had a stroke.

The family of Ryan Sullivan, 26-year-old Troop 888 Eagle Scout, who passed away unexpectedly July 11. His Eagle Project was the LPC 'building' that houses the smoker. Tedi Blinkhorn's co-worker, Ann, dealing with cancer and upcoming surgery, in need of prayers for her daughter, Jen, recently hospitalized and suffered brain and eye damage, and upset about her mother's surgery.

Tom, brother of Tedi Blinkhorn's co-worker, sepsis and lung cancer diagnosis.

Susan Binzer, friend of Joyce Thalheimer, recovering from eye surgery.

Linda Slusher, recovering nicely at home after breaking her leg.

Parents discerning whether to send children to school or keep them home.

Our state and country's ability to get the COVID pandemic under control.

All who are suffering from anxiety due to these stressful and uncertain times.

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

No birthdays

ANNIVERSARIES

July 26 ~ Cheryl & Bob Norton

August 2 ~ Sunni & Karl Kadon

LPC NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Student LIFE Shop: We are in the final two weeks of collecting school supplies for the LIFE Food Pantry's Student LIFE Shop. Don't forget to pick up school supplies for children in need in the Loveland school system. Your supplies can be placed in the labeled bin when you enter the building. We will be collecting through Sunday, August 9th.

You may drop off supplies at the church on Thursday, August 6th, from 10am – noon or from 7pm – 8pm. A collection bin will be in the circle drive. Please place your donations in the bin.

2020 Student LIFE Shop Supply List

1 subject & 3 subject spiral notebooks

5, 8, or 10 subject dividers

Planners

Dry Erase Markers

Post-it-Notes

Highlighters

Graph Paper

Erasers

Scissors - adult size

Calculators

Bottles of glue

Three Ring Binders - 1.5", 2", 2.5", 3"

The church office and building will remain closed through July (except for Sunday worship) for outside activity. Session will meet on July 28th to determine the next steps for opening the building.

1 Kings 3:5-14 (NLT)

⁵That night the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, “What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!”

⁶Solomon replied, “You showed great and faithful love to your servant my father, David, because he was honest and true and faithful to you. And you have continued to show this great and faithful love to him today by giving him a son to sit on his throne.

⁷“Now, O Lord my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn’t know his way around. ⁸And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted! ⁹Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. ¹¹So God replied, “Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies— ¹²I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have! ¹³And I will also give you what you did not ask for—riches and fame! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life! ¹⁴And if you follow me and obey my decrees and my commands as your father, David, did, I will give you a long life.”

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