

## **WELCOME**

This morning as we join in worship, our hope for you is that you will find renewed life, health and strength in God. We are glad that you have heard God's call to come and worship, and that you have chosen to do so with this congregation. If you do not have a church home in this area, we invite you to join with us as we seek to serve Christ and live as His disciples. You may be received into church membership by profession of faith, letter of transfer, or reaffirmation of faith. If you are interested in uniting with this church, please contact the church office or any elder.

### **Session Members**

Nancy Mason - '20 - Worship	Cindy Doyle - '20 - Christian Ed.
Matt Shick - '20 - Stewardship	Carina Brushwood - '21 - Cong. Care
Patty MacEwen - '21 - Administration	Bob Friskney - '22 - Fellowship
Carol Shick - '22 - Worship	Deborah Thatcher - '22- Mission
Cammie Williams - Clerk of Session	

### **Our Mission Statement**

To provide opportunities for people to  
discover God's love,  
seek God's purpose,  
and do God's will.

### **Our Vision Statement**

Glorifying God with  
mind, body, and soul.

Pastor: The Rev. Loli Reiter  
Ministers: The Congregation

*"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,  
God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts  
of him who called you out of darkness into  
his marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9*

Music Director: Logan Sorey  
Organist: Sheila Donohue  
Worship Leader: TJ Childs  
Nursery: Laura DeLeury

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**23th Sunday of Ordinary Time  
September 6, 2020, 11:00 A.M.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE                    “Lead, Kindly Light” - John Newman

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP    (Psalm 61:1-4)

Hear my cry, O God;  
listen to my prayer.  
From the end of the earth I call to you,  
When my heart is faint.  
Lead me to the rock  
That is higher than I;  
For you are my refuge,  
A strong tower against the enemy.  
Let me abide in your tent forever,  
Find refuge under the shelter of your wings.

HYMN # 379            “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

**My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

**Refrain:    On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
              All other ground is sinking sand,  
              All other ground is sinking sand.**

**When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain***

**His oath, His covenant, His blood Support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain***

**When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found,  
Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before the throne.  
*Refrain***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION    (unison)

**Gracious God, sometimes we go through periods where we just don't know what to think or do. Though you are constantly guiding us, even though those times, we can't always hear your voice. What we believe gets overrun by the questions around us. Our faith is dampened by the fears inside us. Forgive us, Lord, for letting these other voices be louder than yours. Give us the strength to focus on what you say and lead us to do even when circumstances make it difficult to listen. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READING      Jeremiah 29:1-14

SERMON                      *"Diaspora"*

HYMN # 276                "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.**

*Refrain:*    **Great is thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain***

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain***

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH      The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the  
Holy Spirit, 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 sits on the right hand of  
God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the  
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of  
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life  
everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Offering - "Thanking God"

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Matthew 6:9-13)

**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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

PRAISE SONG            "Our God"

**Water You turned into wine  
Opened the eyes of the blind  
There's no one like You  
None like You**

**Into the darkness You shine  
Out of the ashes we rise  
There's no one like You  
None like You**

**Our God is greater  
Our God is stronger  
God You are higher than any other  
Our God is Healer  
Awesome in power our God our God**

**And if our God is for us  
Then who could ever stop us  
And if our God is with us  
Then what could stand against**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all, be with you all.  
The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all. Amen.**

POSTLUDE            "The Heavens Declare His Glory" - Beethoven

We welcome Todd Brushwood to the pulpit today.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE THIS WEEK**

Temple Keeper: Ed Holzman (on or before 9/12)

**CHURCH ACTIVITIES** The office is PHYSICALLY closed as we continue to be a part of the effort of keeping our congregation and community safe. Kara will continue to be available by telephone and email during regular church hours (Mon.- Thurs., 9:00am to 2:00pm), and the mail will continue to be picked up regularly. If there is a need, don't hesitate to contact us. Meals on Wheels will continue to prepare food on Wednesdays, but we encourage all other groups to refrain from gathering until further notice. Please continue to pray and know you are being prayed for. God bless!

**LABOR DAY WEEKEND** — **September 5th-7th**, have a safe holiday!

**COMMUNION - Sunday, September 13**, we celebrate communion. Since we continue to worship virtually, please have bread or crackers and juice ready for worship next Sunday.

**ALL COMMITTEES PLEASE MEET BY September 14th** - Committees should plan to have your meetings, via Zoom, email, phone, etc., by Monday, September 14th. All **Committee reports are due** by the morning of **Tuesday, September 15th**, to prepare the packets for **Session, who will meet on Tuesday, September 15th at 7pm** via Zoom.

**NEWSLETTER ITEMS ARE DUE** - You may submit your newsletter items to the church by email to [kara@seffnerpres.org](mailto:kara@seffnerpres.org) by **Tuesday, September 15th**.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ZOOM SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTINUE** - Join us for Children's Zoom Sunday school - say "Hi!" To your friends, have fun with games, and learn more about being a child of God!

**ZOOM INTO STEWARDSHIP BIBLE STUDY!** - **Wednesday, September 9th**, we begin our new bible study, **EPIC: Around-the-World Journey thru Christian History, at 6:15 pm**. Please contact the church by emailing to [kara@seffnerpres.org](mailto:kara@seffnerpres.org) to sign-up and reserve a book.

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE MINISTRIES OF OUR CHURCH!** We are so grateful for your faithful giving! You can continue to give through the mail; by setting up "Bill Pay" with your bank; and now you can make a secure gift on our website. May God continue to bless you, as you continue to be a blessing to others!

**EGG CARTON COLLECTION** is an ongoing ministry. The cartons are taken to E.C.H.O. to be used for distribution of eggs to families when picking up food. Currently the cartons may be left on any of the benches around the court yard at the church. Upon returning to the church, a plastic silver container is available for collection, inside the front entry to the fellowship hall.

**BLESSING BAGS** - We continue to help homeless people, in need of basic essentials in our community, by providing blessing bags. If you would like to pick up a blessing bag to have when out in your daily travels, there are some available on the benches around the court yard.

**SEPTEMBER OFFERING IS BIKES FOR JESUS**, and if you have tried to buy a bike you know there are none on the market unless you are willing to pay over \$300 for a bike. We found a few bikes and ordered them. But we are looking into other ways to give Foster Children and Beth El children a special gift at Christmas. So please continue to give generously and we will continue to look for bikes and other items.

### **OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK**

#### **Sunday, September 6, 2020**

11:00 am      Worship Service Online Live  
12:30 pm      Zoom Sunday School

#### **Monday, September 7, 2020**

**Labor Day**

#### **Tuesday, September 8, 2020**

4:30 pm      Zoom Staff Meeting

#### **Wednesday, September 9, 2020**

8:30 am      Meals on Wheels  
6:00 pm      Zoom Youth Meeting  
6:15 pm      Zoom Stewardship Bible Study Begins

#### **Sunday, September 13, 2020**

11:00 am      Worship Service Online Live with Communion  
12:30 pm      Zoom Sunday School

### **A HOPEFUL LOOK AHEAD**

- Sept.**
- 6 - Season of Peace Begins  
    Sunday Worship Online Live, Zoom Sunday School
  - 7 - Labor Day
  - 9 - Meals on Wheels, Zoom Youth Meeting, Zoom Stewardship Bible Study
  - 13- Sunday Worship Online Live with Communion, Zoom Sunday School
  - 14- Committees Reports Due
  - 15- Zoom Session Meeting, Newsletter Items Due
  - 16- Meals on Wheels, Zoom Youth Meeting, Zoom Stewardship Bible Study
  - 20- Gospel Sunday Worship Online Live, Zoom Sunday School
  - 23- Meals on Wheels, Zoom Youth Meeting, Zoom Stewardship Bible Study
  - 27- Youth Sunday Worship Online Live, Zoom Sunday School
  - 30- Meals on Wheels, Zoom Youth Meeting, Zoom Stewardship Bible Study

### **PRAISES and CONCERNS**

**Pray at all times in the Spirit...Ephesians 6:18a**

Our ministry is to pray for our members who are hospitalized, ill, home bound, attending college, and in the military; and to also encourage others to send cards, make a phone call or visit if possible. If you do not have a directory or need an address not listed, please contact the church office, we will be happy to help.

Rob Bargo  
Susan Kriska  
Jim Barfield  
Beverley Field

Robert Lavazza  
Tammy Wooster  
Bonnie & John Taylor  
Anne Wheeler

Bill Worth  
Terry Cooney  
Charles Brandt

George Kosan  
Bob Stetler  
Joy Lavazza

**Healthcare Workers:** Mazen Al-Alawi, Waleska Alvarado, Jenny Carswell, Lexi Crawford, Allie Abrams Downey, Maggie Hehn, Patricia Hudson, Kristen Rincon, Cheryl High Sawyer, Joelle Vlahakis

**College:** Kai Abe, Elizabeth Banks, Michaela Brushwood, Danh Cooney, Michael Hawkins, Christian Jaimungal, Rachel Kosan, Peter Lapham, Elias Mayfield, Alex Messina, Amber Todd, Jenny Todd

**Military:** Jeff Mason Jr., Diego Rincon, Justin Ernul, Wyatt Harris, Michael Paynter, Sherryn Ramkarran, Aaron Sampson