



**“...choose you this day whom ye will serve ...
but as for me and my house,
we will serve the LORD.”**

Joshua 24:15 (KJV)

King James Bible Online .org

*First United Presbyterian Church
Sodus, New York
November 8, 2020
All Saints Day
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost*

*Reverend Gail Heimberger, Pastor
Douglas Blackall, Organist
Anne L'Hommedieu, Handbell Choir Director
Tracey Fox Allen, Joyful Singers Director*

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Meditation: "Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. ." *Joshua 24: 14*

Greeting and Announcements *Reverend Gail Heimberger*
Let us quiet and still ourselves as we come into the presence of God.

Prelude: "Prelude No. One" George Gershwin

Hymn "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee" p. 357

- 1. O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free; tell me thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.*
- 2. Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love; teach me the wayward feet to stay and guide them in the homeward way.*
- 3. Teach me thy patience; still with thee in closer, dearer company, in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong;*
- 4. In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way, in peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.*

Call to Worship:

We are pulled in many directions.

Many duties and tasks seek to lay claim on our lives.

This day, in this place, let service to God be your choice.

This day, in this place, we open our hearts and spirits to God.

Blessed be the God of creation who has called us here.

Praise be to God who sustains and nurtures our lives. Amen.

- written by Nancy C. Townley, and posted on the [Worship Connection](#)

Prayer of Invocation

Your love has brought us together, O Lord, and it is your love that sustains us through each day. We pray that you would keep us faithful. Even as we watch for signs of your kingdom, strengthen us to work with you to bring about, here and now, your reign on earth. Give us the courage to witness to your presence in the world, today, tomorrow, and into the future. We pray in the name of the One who comes, Christ our Savior. Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

God of Israel and God of Jesus Christ, we would not be here if you had not chosen to touch our lives with your love. We cannot hide our wonder that you should choose to enter our world and our lives in person - in Jesus. Yet we confess that we sometimes have trouble in our decision-making when faced with questions of whether we wholeheartedly serve you or not. We are often tempted to put other than you first in our lives—when we are faced, often daily, with choices which affect how we live as your faithful people—choices about how we share the gifts you have given us.

Forgive us when the choices we make reflect not your glory but our own selfishness.

Forgive us when the choices we make revolve around judging or condemning others without first listening to their stories.

Forgive us when the choices we make contribute to our own prosperity and wellbeing while ignoring the needs of others.

Forgive us when the choices we make diminish our awareness of you, O God, in the midst of those who suffer.

Gracious and loving God, strengthen us where we are weak with the renewing power of your Spirit so that the choices, we make clearly reveal our identity as your faithful people, and as sincere and devoted followers of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord - in whose name we pray. Amen. (Time of Silence)

– Ministry Matters

Special Music: "Precious Lord/I'm Going Live So God Can Use Me"

Traditional

Responsive Reading: Psalm 78: 1-7

My people hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.

I will utter hidden things, things from of old-things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us.

We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.

He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.

Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

Prayer of Illumination

As we hear your word, may we be filled with your peace, your joy, your love and with hope. May we work for justice, peace and reconciliation of the world.

Scripture Readings:

Joshua 24:1-25

24 Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. ² Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods. ³ But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants. I gave him Isaac, ¹⁴ "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." ¹⁶ Then the people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods! ¹⁷ It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. ¹⁸ And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God." ¹⁹ Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the LORD. He is a holy God; he is a jealous

God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins.²⁰ If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.”²¹ But the people said to Joshua, “No! We will serve the LORD.”²² Then Joshua said, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD.” “Yes, we are witnesses,” they replied.²³ “Now then,” said Joshua, “throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.”²⁴ And the people said to Joshua, “We will serve the LORD our God and obey him.”²⁵ On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he reaffirmed for them decrees and laws.

*This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God*

*Sermon: “Whom Shall You Choose: God or Self?”
- Reverend Gail Heimberger*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory: “Prelude No. Two” George Gershwin

Call to Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Prayers of the People

Lord, we are a stubborn and impatient people. We always want to know how things will end. We want to know what the schedule is. We want a "daily planner" from you so that we can be ready. It is interesting that

you have already given us a daily planner. The Holy Spirit, who has been given to comfort and guide us, is our daily planner. Daily we are called to come before you in prayer and praise; daily we are challenged by your Holy Spirit to find ways to serve your people in your world. And we do acknowledge this, somewhat. But we still would like to know when we need to have all the "oil for our lamps". Why is it so hard, Lord, for us to be continually ready? Is it because we have placed you to one side in our lives, and when we think you are coming we take our faith down from the shelf and dust it off? Help us to place you at the center of our lives, seeking to daily prepare ourselves for your coming again in glory. As we have brought before you the names of those people who are near and dear to us, we ask your healing love and blessing for them. Their needs are great and our abilities are limited. But we know that with your love, all things are possible. Give us such courage and perseverance that we may faithfully proclaim your love to all creation. Make us ready to receive you, now, in this place and everywhere we are. For it is in Jesus' Name we pray. AMEN.

(WBW: Yr A, Pentecost 25, Stubbornness, Fall, Fear & Anxiety, Growth & Change, Personal Obedience, Strength, Witness, Courage & Perseverance)

BEARING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

Hymn: *"Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak"* p. 426

*Lord, speak to me, that I may speak
In living echoes of Thy tone;
As Thou has sought, so let me seek
Thine erring children lost and lone.*

*Oh, lead me, Lord, that I may lead
The wand'ring and the wav'ring feet;
Oh, feed me, Lord, that I may feed
Thy hung'ring ones with manna sweet.*

Oh, teach me, Lord, that I may teach The precious things Thou dost impart; And wing my words, that they may reach The hidden depths of many a heart.

Oh, fill me with Thy fullness, Lord, Until my very heart o'erflow In kindling thought and glowing word, Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.

Oh, use me, Lord, use even me, Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where, Until Thy blessed face I see, Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.

Benediction

Postlude: "Postlude No. Three" George Gershwin

There will be a very short Congregational meeting Today, November 8 to make a date change (to January 1, 2021) for the dissolution of the pastoral call. It is just a technicality but needs to be done. The meeting will be very short, but we still need at least 25 members to approve. Thank you.... Gail

Happenings
November 8, 2020

Keep in Prayer:

All who face health issues: Bob Andrews, Bonnie Bolling, Nicky DeBadts McHenry, Gary DeBadts, Marilyn DeMarree, Linda Diehl, Doris Foster, John Faulks, Roger and Debbie Gill, Nancy Gulino, Doris Keese, Rose Jock, Bob Leimberger, Anne Martini, Butch McMahan, Ed and Judy Merkel, David Neese, Chester Payton, Kim Perrotto, Jody Rolston, Carol Sergeant, Joyce Small, Corky Somerville, Bernie Stuttle and Mary Sue Switzer.

- *All our children and teachers.*
- *The family of David Vanderlinde, Doris Schinsing's brother, as they grieve their loss.*
- *Mike Mulberry who will be undergoing a cornea transplant on November 17.*
- *Rollie Heimberger who had surgery Thursday, November 5, to correct a brain bleed after a fall.*

Thank you to:

- *All who reach out to our families and neighbors to keep all of us safe during these trying times. Special thanks to our Deacons for keeping in touch with our folks.*
- *Jeff Sondervan for serving as Liturgist on November 1.*
- *Our bagged lunch helpers, Carol Martini, Alice Irwin and Amy Johnson. Thank you, also, to Kelly Allen for providing eggs.*
- *Jim Hopkins and Harry Stiokas for Live Streaming each Sunday. Thank you to them for their faithfulness. We are looking for someone who could "learn the trade" and help them. Also, thanks to John Faulks for helping to navigate Facebook.*

- *Doug Blackall for providing such uplifting music for each Sunday's Service.*
- *Alice Irwin for putting bulletin and sermon on the website. Soduspresbyterian.com and Facebook.*
- *All our financial people, Kate Daratt, Lorie Ribis and Keith Blackall and all of you who faithfully give, for keeping us in "The Black".*

**CHURCH IS NOW OPENED AND, OF COURSE, ALL ARE WELCOMED.
WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT SOME OF YOU ARE MORE
COMFORTABLE WORSHIPING AT HOME
AS COVID SEEMS TO BE SPIRALING UPWARD A BIT,
LET US BE EVER VIGILANT HERE IN CHURCH
TO WEAR MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCE.**

*Because of COVID concerns, we will not be able to do the
Music and Light Show this year 😞*

AV HELPER(S) WANTED FOR OUR LIVE FACEBOOK SERVICE

We are looking for someone(s) who might be interested in helping out with our live broadcast. See Jim Hopkins or Harry Stiokas.

Starting on November 4 (no lunch on November 24)

Bagged lunches will be picked up at back door. We will bring to cars.

Food Pantry:

We have begun to collect items (again) for the Sodus Point Food Pantry so please bring in items and put on shelves downstairs by the back staircase.

Thanksgiving Take-Out Dinner

*2020 Thanksgiving Dinner - or -
In the words of the 1970's Monty Python cast:
"And Now, For Something Completely Different"*

*Our Church's Annual Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner is going to be a bit different...just like the rest of this year! We will be preparing a full Thanksgiving Dinner for Take-Outs only. Reverend Gail and I had conversations regarding feasibility of this undertaking and it has also been discussed with the Session and it's a "GO!" We are asking people to **reserve their dinners in advance if at all possible** - we know that we can't reach everyone in our community who might have normally just stopped in and that's OK. Drive / walk-ups without a dinner pre-order will be accommodated. As long we have the majority of the orders in early it will help with planning, prep, and dispensing of orders. We have put together a "Dinner Notice / Dinner Order Sheet" that is being distributed with the weekly Bag Lunches and also will be distributed with the October*

Community Dinner take-outs.

Flyers will be posted in public spaces around our area. To volunteer to bring something, contact Alice Irwin, 573-2845

Hanging of the Greens: December 6, 2020

Our Hanging of the Greens Committee is working extremely hard to modify our yearly Hanging of the Greens service to comply with the present situation. We will be having fewer participants and our music will include Handbell Choir, Organ/Piano Music, and a few hymns (masks of course). Although we have had to make a number of modifications, I believe we can still keep beautiful tradition intact.

Poinsettias

Please see flyer in bulletin.

On-line Donations are up and running on soduspresbyterian.com!

After months of investigation, trial and error, a huge learning curve and struggles to obtain timely technical support due to workforce furloughs

because of the pandemic you can now make donations on the Church's web site through PayPal. As a not-for-profit organization, the Church receives a discounted transaction fee from PayPal. It's an easy, safe, and secure way to make a donation. Just click on the "Donate" heading at the top of the Home Page on the web site and you'll get to a form where you'll need to enter your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and where you would like your donation directed: "Church Expenses" which includes Current, Benevolence, and Per Capita, or "Mission and Outreach" programs. Your personal information is secure and is not shared with any other organization, business, or mailing list. Our Church Financial team members are the only people with access to the PayPal account. When a donation is made through PayPal, the funds will be transferred to the Church's account at Reliant Credit Union. We hope to get the capability to make recurring donations available in the future, but right now, we're just really happy that the on-line donation option is up and running!

Christmas Sharing (a Preview)

Christmas sharing: pickup of gifts is December 20th. Joan will give times to families for them to come for pickup. All food and gifts to be to the church by Thursday, December 17th. Joan will draft a letter to be sent out to the congregation regarding the new protocol for collecting gifts and food.

Mitten Tree:

Friends, It is getting close to that time of year again and the Deacons are ready to accept your donations of hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves, for our Sodus students in Pre-K through 6th grade! Feel free to drop off donations on our Mitten Tree table downstairs or call Diane Trawitz 315 553-2406 for pick up! Thank you in advance for your continued generosity!!!!

This Sunday, November 8, 2020

10:00 am: Worship, In-Church and Streaming ONLINE on FACEBOOK.

*11:00 am: A Very short Congregational Meeting
Worship Committee Meeting*

This Coming Week:

Monday: Session, 6:00 pm

*Tuesday: Gail at Zoom General Council Meeting, 9:30 am
Boy Scout #111 meeting, 6:30-7:30 pm*

Wednesday: Bagged Lunches 11:30-Noon

Youth Group, 11:00-1:00

Handbell Choir rehearsal, 6:30-8:00

Next Sunday, November 15, 2020

10:00 am: Worship, In-Church and Streaming ONLINE on FACEBOOK.

Giving Summary-November 1, 2020

Current - \$776.00

Benevolence - \$552.00

Bagged Lunch - \$50.00

Community dinner- \$20.00

Highlights of Some of the Changes

- Masks must be worn in the building until seated and socially distanced. When singing, please wear masks.*
- Hand sanitizer stations will be located at the entry. Please use when entering and exiting the bldg. Also, as required, we take temperatures upon entering.*
- No coffee chat for now.*
- Bulletins located on table as you walk in.*
- Offering will be placed in a plate at the back of the church.*

- *Seating will be by usher to areas marked off to provide social distancing.*

Dates to Remember:

- Nov. 9: Session, 6:00 pm*
- Nov. 10: Gail General Council (9:30) Zoom (at home)*
- Nov. 11: Bagged Lunches 11:30; Youth Group, 11:00-1:00*
- Nov. 17: Gail: Presbytery Meeting 8:30 Zoom (at home)*
- Nov. 18: Bagged Lunches 11:30*
- Nov. 22: Communion*
- Nov. 23: Presbytery Pastor Care Committee, 9:30 am, Zoom, Church*
- Nov. 25: Thanksgiving Prep*
- Nov. 26: Thanksgiving Take-Out, Noon*
- Nov. 30: Set-up for Hanging of Greens*
- Dec. 2: Deacons, 9:00 am; Bagged Lunches*
- Dec. 6: Hanging of the Greens*

Members and Friends,

While the church is going through change, our bills and financial obligations continue. Please do what you can to keep your pledge and contributions current. You can use the new PayPal donation button on website or mail your check to the church using the following address:

First United Presbyterian Church of Sodus

Attention: Financial Secretary, 31 West Main St. Sodus, NY 14551