



Service for the Lord's Day

13th Sunday after Pentecost – Hybrid Worship

August 22, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Please SILENCE ALL Personal Electronic Devices Before Worship.

We Gather as God's People

Welcome to our worship service. Take a moment to quiet yourself as we prepare ourselves for worship.

Welcome and Preparation for Worship

Welcome to Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church! In this space, we invite you to bring all of who you are - your identity, your beliefs, your doubts, your questions, and your story wherever you are on your journey in life. Our prayer is that together we will experience God's presence.

Prelude

Call to Worship [Responsive]

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: In the beginning, God created humankind and all creatures, great and small,

Many: **because God loved a good story.**

One: We love to tell the stories of our faith ancestors, passing them along to future generations,

Many: **just as they have been handed down to us.**

One: At the center of the story that has been told to us, and one we continue to tell,

Many: **is the story of the Word made flesh, Jesus the Christ.**

One: This is God's love story for all the world.

Many: **May all we say and do in our lives continue to tell this story.**

Music "I Love to Tell the Story" Words by Hanley; Music by Fischer

I love to tell the story of unseen things above;

Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story because I know it's true.

It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story! T will be my theme in glory;

To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love.

**I love to tell the story. 'Tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy word.**

Refrain:

**I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.**

Refrain:

The Prayer of the Day [Responsive]

One: Let us pray... We worship you, O God, as the one in whom we have placed our hope.

Many: We share the desire of your people of old to tell of the blessings you have effected in our lives.

One: When we think about the greatest blessing of all—the gift of yourself in human flesh—Jesus Christ—we joyfully acknowledge that our hope in you is not misplaced.

Many: We choose to serve you because you chose to touch our lives so graciously in Christ.

One: May our faithful witness and the service of our lives reveal the depth of our love and gratitude as we worship you, O God,

Many: whose love story for all the world, we are called to tell in our daily lives and in our worship. Amen.

We Listen for God's Word

The Scripture

Psalm 78:1-4 (Nan C. Merrill - Psalms for Praying)

Listen well, O peoples of the earth, to inner promptings of the Spirit;
Let Silence enter your house that you may hear.

For within your heart Love speaks; not with words of deceit, but of spiritual truths to
guide you upon the paths of peace.

Do not hide this from your children; teach of the inward Voice, and help all generations
to listen in the Silence, That they may know the Beloved and be free to follow the
precepts of Love.

Psalm 78:1-4

(NRSV)

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.

We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord, and God's might,
and the wonders that God has done.

John 1:1-5

Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (p. 2376). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.

IN THE BEGINNING there was the Word; the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God. The Word was present to God from the beginning Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being. In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light— a Light that shines in the darkness, a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.

One: For the Word of God in Scripture, For the Word of God among us, For the Word of God within us,

Many: We give thanks to God!

The Sermon

“God's Never Ending Love Story”

Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

<http://ocpchurch.com/files/136232214.pdf>

We Respond to God's Love

One: In times to come, the next generation will ask: “Why did the Lord our God invite us to tell these stories?”

Many: **We will tell our children: Once we were slave people and now we are free. Once we were no people and now we are God's people.**

One: On that first morning God called us.

Many: **God called us from nothing.**

One: Out of nothing came being.

Many: **Out of darkness came light.**

One: Out of chaos came order.

Many: **Out of nothing came life.**

One: On that first morning God called us.

Many: **This morning God calls us to be the people of faith in the midst of meaninglessness.**

One: In the midst of meaninglessness

Many: **God calls us to meaning.**

One: Out of brokenness

Many: **God calls us to wholeness.**

One: Out of divisiveness

Many: **God calls us to community.**

One: Out of tears

Many: **God calls us to laughter.**

One: Out of self-centeredness

Many: **God calls us to love one another.**

One: Out of unfaithfulness

Many: **God calls us to faith.**

One: Out of death

Many: God calls us to life.

One: And we will say to future generations:

Many: Come with us and worship God, Who has created and is creating in our midst.
Come with us and keep covenant.

One: In times to come we will tell the next generation:

Many: once we were no people but now we are God's people.

One: Out of death to resurrection, out of chaos to rebirth, out of unfaithfulness to faith.

Many: Praise God for these wondrous gifts!

The Prayer Music "Jesus Loves Me"

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so;

Little ones to Him belong, They are weak but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know, As He loved so long ago,

Taking children on His knee, Saying, "Let them come to Me."

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

The Pastoral Prayer [Responsive]

One: Let us pray... God of all compassion and consolation,

Many: your breath alone brings life to dry bones and weary souls.

One: Pour out your Spirit upon us, that we may face despair and death with the hope of resurrection and faith through Christ, our Lord. Help us to dance with the spirit, the breath of life, which calls us out of the valley of dry bones and into the Kingdom of God, both a present reality and the grounding of our future hope.

Many: God of Hope, hear our prayer.

One: Holy One, in Christ who revealed the way of life, inscribe your law on our hearts that in this life, we may be the body of Christ. Help our hands to hold the sick and suffering. Help our feet to walk with the poor. Help our ears to listen to those who live in despair. May our eyes be affixed upon the suffering of the cross and the hope of the empty tomb so that we may live as resurrection people.

Many: God of New Life, hear our prayer.

One: Sovereign Lord, Creator of all in the power of the Spirit, you know our faults and yet you promise to forgive. Keep us in your presence and give us your wisdom. Open our hearts to gladness, call dry bones to dance, and restore to us the joy of your salvation.

Many: God of future generations, hear our prayer.

One: We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, as we continue to pray saying,

The Lord's Prayer (using 'debts' and 'debtors'...)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

We Depart to Do God's Will

Closing Hymn “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:

Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream Dies at the opening day.

Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last, And our eternal home.

The Sending Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

One: Once again, beloved of God, we've heard God's story—

Many: a story of love and faithfulness, of mercy and compassion.

One: As God's people, we are called to bring this story to the world, to tell and re-tell it by our words and our actions,

Many: so that others may hear and join the story, too.

One: So go from here with joy and courage, strengthened and sustained in your storytelling by the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit. And all God's storytellers said:

Many: Amen.

Postlude



The liturgy this morning is from: The Prayer of the Day ~ Copyright © Moira Laidlaw, posted on her Liturgies Online website; The Pastoral Prayer ~ posted on **I'm Just Saying**.

Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church is committed to using language in such a way that all members of the community of faith may recognize themselves to be included, addressed, and equally cherished before God. Seeking to bear witness to the whole world, the church struggles to use language which is faithful to the biblical truth and which neither purposefully nor inadvertently excludes people because of gender, color, or other circumstance in life. (Book of Order, W-1.2006)

- Our musician today is Angie Williams.

ANNOUNCEMENTS —

- **Our office administrator, Ruth, will be back in the office on August 24.**
- If you would like to be added to the mailing list for our newsletter, *The Good News*, please send either your email (preferred) or snail mail address to the church office. (Our addresses are listed on the last page of the bulletin.)
- Help us save “pig points.” For us to receive a rebate, please turn in your receipts from the Cambridge Piggly Wiggly in one of three ways: **1.** Place them in the brown bag in the narthex. **2.** Cheryl Stitz will do a porch pickup of any receipts that you may have. Call her at 608-695-1838 to make arrangements. **3.** Receipts can also be mailed to the church office. All funds received are used for mission projects.

WORSHIP SERVICES UPDATE:

SUNDAY AUGUST 29 WORSHIP AT 10 AM – Hybrid in-person sanctuary worship continues.

DONATE ONLINE TO OUR CHURCH, Presbyterian Church of Oakland-Cambridge, using the app, **Give+**. Search for “GivePlus Church” in your app store (Vanco Payment Solutions). Once it’s installed, find us using our zip code (53523), and set up one-time or recurring payments, OR use the QR Code below to access our donor page. A link to our donor page is also on our website www.ocpchurch.com. (Click on the button with the green heart.) Thank you!





Hello to all,

Below is a "wish list" for the food pantry. We would be grateful if you could continue to encourage your congregations, neighbors and friends to give what they can. There is a donation bin outside of the lower-level doors of the middle school/food pantry entrance for non-perishable food items. Anyone wishing to donate perishable foods can contact me directly either by phone or email and I will make arrangements to accept those donations. Monetary donations continue to be the most needed and most efficient way to support the food pantry at this time.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Cambridge Food Pantry.

I hope you all remain healthy and safe.

Kindest regards,

Kerry Marren 608-423-8142 foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us www.cambridgecap.net

CAMBRIDGE FOOD PANTRY WISH LIST: Canned Meats, Rice, Cookies/Sweets, Cereal, Egg Noodles, Pasta Sauce, Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Cleaning Supplies, Feminine Products, Shampoo and conditioner.

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PLEASE NOTE... We are trying to update our prayer list. If you would like to be added to our weekly prayer list, please leave word in the church office or contact the pastor. Permission to be included in this publicly posted list has been obtained from those listed or their families.

Church Schedule

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. Sunday

Communion: First Sunday of each month

Pastoral Office Hours: Generally 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Wednesday or by appointment

Business Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday

(Church hours are approved by Session and posted on church entry doors.)

Telephone/Fax: 608-423-3001

Email: Office@OCPChurch.com or Pastor@OCPChurch.com

Web: www.OCPChurch.com

Mailing Address: 313 E. Main St., Cambridge, WI 53523-9629



Visit us on Facebook: Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church

SESSION (Meets the second Sunday of each month.)

Class of 2021: Ann Febock, Melanie Rumpf

Class of 2022: Joe Leto, Mike Stitz

Class of 2023: Randy Johnson

BOARD OF DEACONS (Meets the third Sunday of each month.)

Class of 2021: Judy Schroeder, Cheryl Stitz

Class of 2022: Cheryl Bettenhausen

Class of 2023: Judy Pearson, Mare Stewart

CHURCH STAFF

Music—

Accompanists: Karen Brunk, Marian Korth, Angie Williams

Business Manager: Ruth Poole

Pastor: Pastor Scott Marrese-Wheeler: (608) 417-0231 cell;

Pastor@OCPChurch.com Facebook: Scott Marrese-Wheeler

Follow Rev. Scott on Twitter: @2revsScott

