

**A Message from Pastor Jay**

This Sunday we remember Juneteenth and consider two parables of Jesus in Mark 4:26-34. These parables are thrown alongside our lives (the meaning of the word parable in Greek) to aid our imagination into the mysteries of God's realm. God's grace is beneath both the seed sown in the earth and the tremendous growth of the bush from the tiny mustard seed. Hiddenness and mystery are frustrating aspects of God's realm. Our tasks are patience, faith, and "eyes to see." Imagine being a slave in Texas the day freedom was announced in 1865. It was a long time coming! Our thanks to Carole Sue and Linda for providing music - and thanks to guest harpist Ann. Linda serves as worship leader. JJ brings some mustard seeds to dhow the children.

**WELCOMING EVERYONE BACK  
TO WORSHIP AT 10:30 AM!**

**Per CDC Guidelines, Masks are Optional, Social  
Distancing Measures Have Been Lifted, But Individuals  
May Still Choose To Distance As Desired.**

**Nursery and Sunday school at the 10:30am service**

**ZOOM BIBLE STUDY SATURDAY 10AM**

**ZOOM SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP 2:00 PM**

**Let us know if you want to be added to these Zoom  
invitations**

**BULLETIN**

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
JUNETEENTH REMEMBRANCE (19<sup>TH</sup>)**

*\*Those who are able may stand*

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

*Juneteenth is a holiday that commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. It recalls how the states of Louisiana and Texas heard the news that President Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. Slavery continued in those two states for more than two years after the proclamation was signed because the word had yet to travel there. Texas and Louisiana finally got the good news on June 19, 1865. Former slaves broke out in spontaneous celebration. These were dangerous times. Even in the face of resistance and threat, the formerly enslaved Africans found ways to give voice to the wide range of thoughts and emotions at the announcement of the end of legalized slavery in the United States of America.*

Prelude: Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart arr. Lenny Seidel

Words of Welcome – Announcements - Passing of the Peace

A Time for Children of All Ages - JJ

Call to Worship – Hebrews 10:23-25                      Linda Foote

L: Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering,

**P: for he who has promised is faithful.**

L: And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,

**P: not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some,**

L: but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Opening Prayer

Linda Foote

Holy and righteous God, you created us in your image. Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression. Help us, like those of generations before us who resisted the evil of slavery and human bondage in any form and any manner of oppression. Help us to use our freedoms to bring justice among people and nations everywhere, to the glory of your Holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymn: "O For a World"

New Century Hymnal #575

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Mark 4:26-34

Linda Foote

Special Music: "Meditation on the 1st Prelude of J.S. Bach" arr. Samuel Milligan  
By Ann Badger on harp and Carole Sue Linson on organ

Sermon: "Juneteenth Remembered"

Pastor Jay

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

A LITANY ADAPTATION OF "LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING"

Pastor Jay:

Celebration rises, up from the deep places, finding voice in the light and air no longer denied. Lift every voice and sing, sing till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty. Celebration rises, not blind to the suffering, not blind to the sorrow. Celebration comes at a cost. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died; yet with a steady beat have not our weary feet come to the place for which our parents sighed. Celebration rises, remembering the way we have come, the paths taken that have brought us here now to this place and time of celebration. Celebration rises, up and up, full of remembering.

Linda Foote:

Remembering lives and freedom stolen. We have come over a way that with tears has been watered; we have come treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast. Celebration rises, recognizing what has been done and left undone, knowing there is still and yet much to do, so much further to go. Celebration rises, naming the victories, recognizing the challenges yet ahead. Celebration rises on voices offering unfinished praise. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God where we met thee; lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world we forget thee; Celebration rises, resisting illusions, to be embraced by the real and abiding presence of God who breaks our chains, and sets us free for freedom, in power and love and joy. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears thou who hast brought us thus far on our way; thou who has by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Celebration rises, with the power of healing wings and promise to endure. Celebration rises, celebrating that by God's grace, I am because You are. You are because I am. Celebrating that the fullness of my humanity does not diminish yours and the fullness of your humanity does not diminish mine. Shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land. True to who we are, True to who we have been and who we are becoming, thanks be to God.

"Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world. Now I've been free, I know what a dreadful condition slavery is. I have seen hundreds of escaped slaves, but I never saw one who was willing to go back and be a slave." ~~ Harriet Tubman

Pastor Jay:

"Liberty is meaningless where the right to utter one's thoughts and opinions has ceased to exist. That, of all rights, is the dread of tyrants. It is the right which they first of all strike down. They know its power. Thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers, founded in injustice and wrong, are sure to tremble, if men are allowed to reason... Equally clear is the right to hear. To suppress free speech is a double wrong. It violates the rights of the hearer as well as those of the speaker." ~~ Frederick Douglass / The Lord's Prayer

*(Using text adapted from "Lift Every Voice and Sing" by James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938). In public domain. Worship Resources: Juneteenth Copyright © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)*

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Pastor Jay

Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Jay

Benediction

Pastor Jay

Postlude: "Glory Be to the Father" arr. Jason Krug

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**United Church of Christ**

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[www.facebook.com/FccUccPrescott](https://www.facebook.com/FccUccPrescott)

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**Founded September 26, 1880**

## JUNE MISSION NEWS

### Mission Outreach Update for June:

Our June mission outreach emphasis will help fund two programs.

**[1]** Our denomination's "**Strengthen the Church**" offering which supports new church development, creative ministries directed to youth and young adults, spiritual development ministries, and projects engaging today's challenging issues.

**[2] The Yavapai Food Bank (YFB)** The YFB provides food boxes for approximately 400 families weekly. Additionally, YFB will once again be providing school supplies and backpacks for students in grades K-12. If you would like to donate, please make your check payable to the church, with the memo of "STC" or "YFB". Mission checks which are not designated to a particular project will be disbursed at the discretion of our mission outreach team.

**Our year-round ministries:** We are grateful for the volunteers of our church family who regularly help pack food boxes for the **Prescott Community Cupboard**. Angela Imbierowicz is our captain. So too, are we thankful for those who monthly help to provide an evening meal for women and children being sheltered at **PASS**. Patty Gard is our captain. As always, thank you for remembering that we are blessed to be a blessing. (Genesis 12: 2) Questions or comments can be directed to our mission outreach team.

Thank you for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing [Genesis 12:2] Our Mission team members are: Becky and Bill Bryant, Helaine Berman, Patty and Gary Gard.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WE ARE REOPENING!

June will be our official month to celebrate opening up again after the COVID-19 year. You will see our colorful doors out in front of the sanctuary announcing "God's Doors Are Open To All." Our thanks to Melissa and Elizabeth for all the work in creating them. The colors remind us that this is PRIDE month - June 27 will be "Open and Affirming Sunday."

Congregational singing of the hymns will return this Sunday! Most of us have been vaccinated at this point, so we will follow the science and celebrate our safety. Masks are still optional for those who are not quite ready, those not yet vaccinated, and those with other health issues. The sanctuary is a "no judgment zone." Mask or no mask - All are welcome!

We will also return to wearing our name tags. Lots of new people to get to know! Please get yours in Perkins Hall. If you need a new one, you can create your own on the table by the name tag board in Perkins Hall.

## JUNE WORSHIP

June 6

"Consider the Ant" Proverbs 6

June 13

"Juneteenth Remembered"

June 20

Father's Day

"A Loving Father For All"

June 27

PRIDE Sunday

"Love is a Many Gendered Thing"

## TREASURER REPORT

**Income as of May 31 is \$60,696.  
Total expenses are \$57,278.  
Net income is \$3,418.**

**Year-to-date income is at 50% of the income budget of \$122,450.  
Year-to-date expenses are at 39% of the expense budget of \$146,905.**

## JUNETEENTH

**Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation – which had become official January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order. However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance. Later attempts to explain this two and a half year delay in the receipt of this important news have yielded several versions that have been handed down through the years. Often told is the story of a messenger who was murdered on his way to Texas with the news of freedom. Another is that the news was deliberately withheld by the enslavers to maintain the labor force on the plantations. And still another is that federal troops actually waited for the slave owners to reap the benefits of one last cotton harvest before going to Texas to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation. All of which, or none of these versions could be true. Certainly, for some, President Lincoln's authority over the rebellious states was in question. Whatever the reasons, conditions in Texas remained status quo well beyond what was statutory.**

One of General Granger's first orders of business was to read to the people of Texas, General Order Number 3 which began most significantly with:

"The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired laborer."

The reactions to this profound news ranged from pure shock to immediate jubilation. While many lingered to learn of this new employer to employee relationship, many left before these offers were completely off the lips of their former 'masters' – attesting to the varying conditions on the plantations and the realization of freedom. Even with nowhere to go, many felt that leaving the plantation would be their first grasp of freedom. North was a logical destination and for many it represented true freedom, while the desire to reach family members in neighboring states drove some into Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Settling into these new areas as free men and women brought on new realities and the challenges of establishing a heretofore non-existent status for black people in America. Recounting the memories of that great day in June of 1865 and its festivities would serve as motivation as well as a release from the growing pressures encountered in their new territories. The celebration of June 19th was coined "Juneteenth" and grew with more participation from descendants. The Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassuring each other, for praying and for gathering remaining family members. Juneteenth continued to be highly revered in Texas decades later, with many former slaves and descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston on this date.

Today, Juneteenth is enjoying a phenomenal growth rate within communities and organizations throughout the country. Institutions such as the Smithsonian, the Henry Ford Museum and others have begun sponsoring Juneteenth-centered activities. In recent years, a number of local and national Juneteenth organizations have arisen to take their place along side older organizations – all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture. Juneteenth today, celebrates African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures. As it takes on a more national, symbolic and even global perspective, the events of 1865 in Texas are not forgotten, for all of the roots tie back to this fertile soil from which a national day of pride is growing. The future of Juneteenth looks bright as the number of cities and states creating Juneteenth committees continues to increase. Respect and appreciation for all of our differences grow out of exposure and working together. Getting involved and supporting Juneteenth

celebrations creates new bonds of friendship and understanding among us. This indeed brightens our future – and that is the Spirit of Juneteenth.

## COVID-19 UPDATE FROM CABINET

### **Worship Will Be At 10:30am Each Sunday**

Per CDC Guidelines, Masks are Optional, Social Distancing Measures Have Been Lifted, But Individuals May Still Choose To Distance As Desired. Congregational Singing Will Begin June 6.

Nursery and Sunday school at the 10:30am service

## SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS!

- Online – go to our website: [www.fccprescott.org](http://www.fccprescott.org) and look for the tab on the front page
- You can set up regular, ongoing giving or one-time giving.
- Use your credit card and get some points!
- Your bank may have free online bill pay. You find the tab on your online account, fill in the details of the check as you would a regular check, and the bank mail will mail it for you! You can set up a one-time check or recurring scheduled check amount.
- Make a check out to the church and mail it to: 216 East Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301



The church office is closed going forward, However, someone will pick up the mail on a daily basis to place checks into the safe.

[Visit our website](#)

[Watch Services Here](#)

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