

A Message From Pastor Jay

This Sunday we continue our series on the Psalms of Ascent (Psalm 120-134) with a focus on Psalm 122. The Psalm begins with the pilgrims arriving in Jerusalem and their joy of looking around at the sites. "I was glad when they said to me - 'Let us go to the house of the Lord'" is a reminder of the importance of sacred spaces. Though the location of the Temple (presence of God) has shifted for us to an internal presence of God (we are the Temple of the Holy Spirit), we still find the Holy in sacred spaces. Where do we find sacred space in our lives? JJ finds it in our sanctuary. Henry is worship leader. Denise provides music.

PER CDC GUIDELINES, WE HAVE RETURNED TO WEARING MASKS IN THE SANCTUARY AND PERKINS HALL.

Nursery and Sunday school at the 10:30am service

The "Watch Worship Services Here" tab on the front page of our website includes worship services that go back to January of 2020. During our year of shutdown, we enjoyed recorded music each week. Starting in September, We often had singers from around the world join Deana on her Smule program that allowed for that. We even had a Roman Catholic priest in Spain join her a time or two. You could use these recorded services as daily devotionals! Check them out.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY SATURDAY 10AM

ZOOM SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP 2:00 PM

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

[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Musical guests in coming weeks: August 15: Denise Nasso;
August 22: Joell Gall**

Per CDC guidelines, we are returning to mask wearing on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary and Perkins Hall.

New members will be received August 29 during worship. Note the opportunities to learn about the church in the message below.

Office Open by Appointment - Call Pastor Jay 928-899-9066

AUGUST MISSION NEWS

MISSION OUTREACH

Mission Outreach Update: Our Mission emphasis for the month of August is our **DACA Fund**. The Federal government has granted registered DACA enrollees legal status and the right to obtain a work permit. These rights are subject to a two year time period, which can be renewed. Donations to our DACA Fund support (1) Franceny Gardea, a DACA registrant who is pursuing her Master's Degree at Prescott College and (2) The Freedom Education Fund, a DACA scholarship program at Prescott College. Donation checks may be made payable to the church, with the memo, DACA. Checks marked simply, "mission" will be used at the discretion of our mission team.

PASS Update: Thanks to our team of volunteers, on July 21 dinner and sundries were provided to 22 guests at the PASS shelter for women and children. We do this on the third Wednesday of each month. If you would like to help, contact our PASS team captain, Patty Gard at gpgard7963@gmail.com or phone 928 460 3042.

Prescott Community Cupboard (PCC): Both Angela Imbierowicz and Lee Danaher serve on the PCC Board of Directors. The PCC provides food bags/boxes for impoverished individuals and families living in the Prescott area. On scheduled dates throughout the year, our team of volunteers sort food donations and pack food bags. You can deposit your canned food items in our donation box located in the front of the church sanctuary. If you would like to help sort and pack food bags, contact our PCC team captain, Angela Imbierowicz at angelaprescottaz@gmail.com or phone 708 712 1448.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS AUGUST 29

GOT QUESTIONS? WE GOT ANSWERS!

Everything you've ever wanted to know about us but were afraid to ask
Two one-hour sessions are being offered, right after church in the
sanctuary:

Sunday August 15 and Sunday August 22.

How THIS church is governed

How we relate to the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ

How we relate to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ

What are our beliefs

What are our sacraments

A little about our history

What is the Foundation

Membership vs. non-membership

Opportunities to participate in THIS church

Awesome for those who want to become members Helpful for those who don't know if they want to become members Just a simple, good refresher for all others. If you want to come but you can't make either session, let Pastor Jay know.

From our church bylaws:

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

This church welcomes into its fellowship any person who subscribes to the teachings of Jesus Christ. Membership is open to all without regard to age, race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender identity, faith, marital status, and personal ability. Members may participate in any activity of this church and may serve in an elected or appointed position of leadership.

Members have the right to vote at any Annual or Special Meeting. Membership may be determined as follows: 1. By satisfactory and public profession of the Christian faith as evidenced by the covenant of this church with the United Church of Christ. 2. By the rite of Confirmation in this church. 3. By a letter of transfer from another Christian Church. Members covenant to participate fully in the life of the congregation by: 1. Attending worship, 2. Celebrating Communion, 3. Seeking to learn about and understand Holy Scripture and its implications for our lives as Christians, 4. Sharing time and talent dedicated to church work, 5. And supporting the financial and spiritual welfare of the membership and community to the best of their ability.

Full rights and privileges of membership are granted to those members wishing to retain membership with other Christian Churches. Members shall be granted, on request, a letter of transfer to another church. Church membership rolls will be updated periodically by members of the Cabinet.

We recognize as friends those who are active in the life of First Congregational Church, but who choose not to join as members. They share fully in the spiritual life of this church and may participate in all its programs and activities. Friends may serve with the Ministries but are ineligible to serve on the Cabinet or be elected an Officer. Friends are also granted the privilege of voice without vote at any Annual or Special Meeting.

SUNDAY BULLETIN

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 15, 2021

10:30 a.m.

**Those who are able may stand*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "What A Wonderful World"

Denise Naso

A Time for Children of All Ages - JJ

(children are welcome to go downstairs for Sunday school after the children's time)

Words of Welcome – Announcements - *Passing of the Peace

*Hymn: "God is Here! As We Your People Meet" (First & Last Verses) New Century Hymnal #70

Call to Worship

Henry Dahlberg

We come, celebrating the joy of worshipping God in our own sacred space.

God of all glory - "In the presence of your people I will praise your name..."

We come, rejoicing that together we can freely and openly worship our God.

"...for alone you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel... Hallelujah!"

We come, with delight and jubilation to offer our thanks and praises for God's faithfulness, goodness and mercy; and to pray for all who gather to praise God.

"...Let us celebrate your goodness, and your steadfast love. May your name be exalted here on earth and in heaven above. Praises, glory and honor to God! Amen."

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Psalm 122 Henry Dahlberg

Solo: "Wade in the Water"

Denise Nasso

Sermon: "Sacred Space"

Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

*Song: "It's the Old Ship of Zion"

New Century Hymnal #310

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer Henry Dalberg / Pastor Jay

Wonderful and Welcoming God, we gather here in our own special place where we worship our God - where together we can share our acts of worship and praise.

Today is an opportunity for personal private prayer and praise; but it also provides the wonderful privilege of shared prayers and praises. So we gather in sincere gratitude to honor the God who gifts us all; and provides so many wonderful blessings to us each day and night. However humble or magnificent is the building which we honor as the *"house of the LORD"*; it is where we come as God's children to offer our thanks and praises for God's gracious care; and so, we are glad to gather together in the God's house.

We come, rejoicing that together we can freely and openly worship our God, even as we acknowledge that there are many people who do not have this privilege and blessing. Today, we pray especially for them, that in their lack of shared worship—that they still are able to worship God, if necessary in secret, offering their prayers of praise and thankfulness for their knowledge of and love of their God; and for God's gracious and merciful love of them as faithful individuals in difficult circumstances.

Today we come, with joyous delight to offer our thanks and praises for God's mercy, God's goodness, God's faithfulness, and God's acceptance of us as God's own children. We give thanks for all God's holy, love-inspired blessings; for the wonderful privilege of knowing we are forgiven by God; and that we can offer forgiveness to others; and for the especially generous gifts from God that has taught us to trust other people. We pray that we may share these blessings of love, forgiveness and trust amongst all with whom we meet, but especially in our worship; and we ask that God will guide and help us in our shared life of worship and praises. Amen.

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Song: "People Get Ready"

Denise Nasso

Prayer of Dedication

Henry Dahlberg

Loving God, we share what we have because you share so abundantly with us. May our sharing be an act of thanksgiving and praise for all you have done and all you will continue to do for us. We dedicate these gifts and offer ourselves to your service. Bless us and our gifts, that we might be a source of help, hope, and joy to a world in need. With grateful hearts we pray, Amen.

*Benediction

Pastor Jay

*Postlude: "What a Covenant – Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

New Century Hymnal #471

TREASURER REPORT

Income as of July 31 is \$88,782

Total expenses are \$81,390.

Net income is \$7,392.

Year-to-date income is at 73% of the income budget of \$122,450.
Year-to-date expenses are at 55% of the expense budget of \$146,905.

AUGUST WORSHIP - PSALMS OF ASCENT (120-134)

Many scholars believe the title indicates that these psalms were sung by worshippers as they ascended the road to Jerusalem to attend the three pilgrim festivals in Jerusalem (Deuteronomy 16:16). Others think they were sung by the Levite singers as they ascended the fifteen steps to minister at the Temple in Jerusalem. Either way, these psalms give us a glimpse of the faith of those who worshiped God in the past. As we ascend our own spiritual journey, insights may be found in these Psalms. We will look at 5 of these Psalms during August.

August 1 - Psalm 120

August 8 - Psalm 121

August 15 - Psalm 122

August 22 - Psalm 123

August 29 - Psalm 126

SUPPORT THE CHURCH

Online – go to our website: 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



United
Church of
Christ

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