

A Message From Pastor Jay

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

Nursery and Sunday school at the 10:30am service

**WE ARE WEARING MASKS IN THE SANCTUARY &
PERKINS HALL
AFTER WORSHIP REFRESHMENTS AND FINGER
FOODS ARE SUSPENDED
SOCIAL DISTANCING IS ENCOURAGED
CASES ARE DECLINING SO HOPEFULLY
ADJUSTMENTS TO OUR COVID PROTOCOLS ARE
FORTHCOMING!**

SPAM ALERT!

After a long quiet spell, it looks like spammers are at it again. Both texts and emails may come to you as if sent by me, asking for a favor or money. Do not open them or click on links. The phone number will not be mine and the email address will be slightly different. The bottom line is I will not ask you for a favor or money!

“Blessed Be Them – Woe Be Us!”

I like this title for the sermon Sunday because it flips our usual blessing of ourselves and criticism of the “other.” Our current culture seems intent on making everything a binary choice, whether politics, religion, or how we chose to shape our society. No middle ground allowed! No compromise! These words of Jesus would seem to validate that way of thinking, albeit with the aforementioned flip:

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. “Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets. (Luke 6:20-26)

Sunday's sermon allows us to apply intellectual complexity to this text (if we would check our brain at the door, simplify everything down to pop psychology applications, and participate in the us vs. them mentality, we could double our attendance!). We will apply proper exegesis to Jesus' message of blessings and woes, thereby bringing our brains to church!

"Refugees," by Brian Bilston, a self-described wordsmith, who is sometimes known as the "Poet Laureate of Twitter":

Refugees

They have no need of our help

So do not tell me

These haggard faces could belong to you or me

Should life have dealt a different hand

We need to see them for who they really are

Chancers and scroungers

Layabouts and loungers

With bombs up their sleeves

Cut-throats and thieves

They are not

Welcome here

We should make them

Go back to where they came from

They cannot

Share our food

Share our homes

Share our countries

Instead let us

Build a wall to keep them out

It is not okay to say

These are people just like us

A place should only belong to those who are born there

Do not be so stupid to think that

The world can be looked at another way

(Now read from bottom to top)

Our past worship services are now on the website! Click on the "past worship services" link on the opening page of the website and you will find all the services back to January of 2020! Thanks to Jim for letting us use his YouTube channel for easy access.

ZOOM FAITH FORUM 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 Sunday - Alter-Notes

EDUCATION MINISTRY

Our Needs:

Preserve each of our sense of sacred experience in and with church

Desire to contribute to church community

To be responsive to congregant's interests for fellowship, education, and spiritual growth

Work together as a team, to offer opportunities with dispersed leadership for programs

Caveats of Prescott UCC Education Ministry at this time:
Small church community
Increased social isolation due to virus variants

Aims of Education Ministry:

Utilize community resources and teachers
Offer programming in church and to community ex: at library, Las Fuentes, Museums
Use the arts as a framework for exploring faith, Spirit and the Divine Presence in all

Survey to Prescott UCC Community:

The newly formed Education Ministry Team is seeking your input for programming ideas. Listed are ideas we've heard from others or are interested in ourselves. Please rank in order your priorities 1 = most interest. Add other interests for us to ponder.

Thank you. Alice Kring, Linda Mast and Lisa Barnes

Please rank your interests for Education Ministry and email /mail to church: fccprescott@gmail.com or 216 East Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

· Lent series of discussion guide to the text behind Handel's Messiah

- Interfaith conversations focused on faith and the arts
- Using the Library Cultural Passes carpool to a cultural event
- Attend – well spaced seating – a Natural History Institute Lecture by Robin Kimmerer on Braiding Sweetgrass – Indigenous culture reflections of caring for this sacred earth
- Invite art docent from Prescott Center for the Arts to speak on art and Christianity
- Attend talk about training and use of therapy dogs, with dogs present
- Invite several artists to talk about their works of art which have grown out of observing nature
- Take a trip to the Phoenix Botanical Gardens this spring to experience the desert in bloom
- Seek teacher to provide several classes on contemplative spiritual practices

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

Due to COVID spread in Prescott, outside groups are still not able to meet in the church

FEBRUARY MISSION NEWS

This month's mission outreach project is the Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS). PASS began as an emergency shelter in 2007, providing shelter during inclement weather for women and women with children. It's doors are now open year round. Guests (usually a maximum of 30) may stay for up to 90 days. During this time, various resource programs assist our guests to evaluate their goals and how they might achieve them. With the assistance of PASS staff, almost 90% of our guests have found permanent housing.

Local churches and organizations help provide evening meals, sundries needed by our guests and supplies used to clean the several rooms of the PASS shelter. Thanks to our loyal crew of volunteers, our PASS team provides a monthly hot

meal and other sundries/supplies.

If you are interested in joining our team, contact our PASS team captain Patty Gard 928 460 3042 or at gpgard7963@gmail.com. If you would like to serve on our Mission Outreach Committee, please contact Becky Bryant 928 910 2820 or at Beckybryant2255@gmail.com.

As always, thanks for remembering that we are blessed to be a blessing. [Gen 12:2].

STUDY OPPORTUNITY

ZOOM FAITH FORUM

The new faith forum will allow a variety of faith issues to be explored. Call or email the church office to be added to the weekly Zoom invitation: 928-445-4555; fccprescott@gmail.com.

February 12: Yale Series - Women of the Bible: Sarah

February 19: Yale Series - Women of the Bible: Tamar

February 26: Yale Series - Women of the Bible: Women Warriors

SUNDAY BULLETIN

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 13, 2022 10:30 a.m.

**Those who are able may stand*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "Journey in the Spirit" Mark Achuff

A Time for Children of All Ages - JJ

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

Welcome & Announcements and *Passing of the Peace

Gathering Song: "Come On In"

Alter-Notes

Gathering Prayer (based on Psalm 1 and Luke 6)

David Pifer

God of our hearts, we are blessed when we feast on your Word:
that Word which embraces us; that Word which teaches us; that Word which
transfigures us; that Word which grounds us. Give us your Word.

Jesus Christ, we are blessed when we have your heart: a heart for the poor; for the
hungry; for those who weep; for the rejected. Give us your Heart.

Spirit of God, we bear fruit when we are filled with your Spirit, the spirit of
generosity, the spirit of emptying ourselves for others; the spirit of bearing one
another's burdens. Give us your Spirit.

God in Community, Holy in One, may our hearts beat as one with your heart. We
gather to worship you.

*Hymn: "O Mighty God, When I Survey in Wonder" New Century Hymnal #35

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Psalm 1

David Pifer

Gospel Reading: Luke 6:17-26

Pastor Jay

*Hymn: "Blessed Are You"

Sing! Prayer and Praise #77

Sermon: "Blessed Be Them – Woe Be Us!"

Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Anthem: "Trust In Jesus" by Mark Hayes

Alter-Notes

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer (use trespasses)

Pastor Jay

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the "Poet
Laureate of Twitter":

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Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way
(Now read from bottom to top)

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Pastor Jay

Prayer of Dedication

David Pifer

Most loving God, please teach us the upside-down values of your kingdom, that we may find happiness where others fear loss, and fulfilment where others fear being diminished. Let the Spirit of your true Son pervade us, that we may see through his eyes and serve through his hands. Amen.

*Hymn: "Be Now My Vision"

New Century Hymnal #451

*Benediction

Pastor Jay

*Postlude: "Joy, Joyful Joy" Mark Achuff

TREASURER REPORT

The income for January is \$13,724. Expenses are \$13,100. Net income is \$624.

Julie McCurdy, treasurer

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:30am
Nursery & Sunday School 10:30am

On Zoom:

Feb. 17 Church Foundation Board Mtng. 5:15pm
Feb. 28 Church Cabinet Mtng. 5:30 pm

In-Person

March 2 Ash Wednesday Service 5:00pm
April 14 Maundy Thursday Service 5:30pm
April 15 Good Friday Service Noon
April 17 Easter Worship 10:30am

New Members Received on Easter Sunday

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 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

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United
Church of
Christ

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