

**Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church**  
*The Third Sunday after Pentecost*

*If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation.  
Old things have passed away.*

*Behold, all things have become new.*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

***June 13, 2021***

# Morning Liturgy

Live Streaming Worship 10AM

*\*Please stand if you are able. Congregation reads aloud the **bold** print.*

*We are caught up in the grip of God's cosmic reconciliation in Christ. Jesus died so that fractured relationships, dysfunctional families, lost friendships, and ruptured social circles could be restored.*

## Prelude

**\*Call to Worship** (Responsively)

**Aminy Audi**

How good it is to give thanks to the Eternal

**and to praise Your name with song, O Most High.**

To speak of Your unfailing love in the morning

**and rehearse Your faithfulness as night begins to fall.**

*How good it is to praise to the sound of strings—lute and harp the stirring melodies of the lyre.*

**Because You, O Eternal One, thrill me with the things You have done, I will sing with joy in light of Your deeds.**

Your works are marvelous, O Eternal One!

**Your thoughts are unfathomable.**

Those who are devoted to God will flourish

**they will grow strong and tall like mountain top cedars**

Those planted in the house of the Eternal will thrive in the courts of our God.

**They will bear fruit into old age, even in winter,**

To display that the Eternal is righteous.

**He is my rock, and there is no shadow of evil in Him.**

**\*Hymn GTG#366**

**Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

**Hyfrydol**

## An Invitation to Confession

**Pastor**

God has loved us from the very beginning so that, even though we have often acted in ways that are contrary to that love, nothing we can do can change that. Consequently, we can fearlessly come before God to admit our failures – knowing that we will receive all we need to begin again. Let us therefore pray together.

## **Prayer of Confession and Reconciliation (Unison)**

**O Lord, you have called us to be witnesses to your love and mercy. Jesus even called us “a light on a hill – that could not be hidden.” Sadly, we have not been the kind of light we were meant to be. There are serious divisions among us, and we often do not look much like the one who has called us by name to be his own.**

**To make matters worse, people look at us and do not find anything to draw them into the fellowship that he created. Increasingly they go the other way – saying “there is nothing here for me.”**

**Forgive our failures, O Lord, and renew us. Enable us to be true witnesses to the love and mercy we have received. Make us into the image of the one you sent to show your love to all the world.**

*A time of silence  
Continue your prayer in silence ...*

### **\*Assurance of Grace**

**Pastor**

The wonder of God’s love is so great and yet so simple that it is difficult for us to believe. It can’t be that easy, we say. And yet it is. Through the resurrection of Jesus, we see that there is nothing in all of creation that is stronger than God’s love or that can separate us from that love. Believe this good news: Because of God incredible love ... we are ... forgiven.

**\*Response of Praise #643:      Now Thank We All Our God      Gott**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

**Aminy Audi**

**Eternal Creator, your word is what has brought all that we see, and more, into being. Speak to us that we might see more clearly what it is you desire of us and give us a measure of your spirit so that we may be able to do your will. Amen.**

**Scriptures**

**Listen to the word of the Lord**

**History:**

**Ezekiel 17.22-24 The Voice**

**Aminy Audi**

This parable dramatizes Babylon's attack on Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar, represented by the first eagle, is indeed the largest predator in the area. He swooped into Jerusalem and exiled the young king, Jehoiachin, who was plucked from the top of the cedar tree. Nebuchadnezzar then planted a new monarch in Jerusalem, Zedekiah, as a vassal of Babylon.

Jerusalem flourishes under Zedekiah but doesn't gain any power, just as the vine is strong but not tall. But when Zedekiah becomes ambitious for sovereignty, he will send envoys to King Hophra in Egypt—represented by the second eagle—looking for mercenaries. This betrayal will lead to Jerusalem's complete destruction by Nebuchadnezzar. Since God is using Babylon to punish His disobedient people, and since Zedekiah's betrayal will reflect badly on Him, the coming destruction is none other than divine judgment.

God said: I personally will take a sprig from the top growth of a lofty cedar—the highest, youngest, and most flexible—and plant it on a high and lofty mountain, on the mountain of Israel. It will produce *healthy* branches and bear fruit and become a noble cedar. All sorts of birds will come and nest in it and find shade in its branches. All the trees of the field will know that I am the Eternal; I cut down the tall tree and make the small tree tall; I cause the flourishing tree to wither and the withering tree to flourish. I, the Eternal, have spoken, and I will do exactly as I've promised.

**Gospel:**

**Mark 4.26-34**

**The Voice**

**Aminy Audi**

Here is what the kingdom of God is like: a man who throws seeds onto the earth. Day and night, as he works and as he sleeps, the seeds sprout and climb out into the light, even though he doesn't understand how it works. *I is as though* the soil itself produced the grain *somehow*—from a sprouted stalk to ripened fruit. But *however it happens*, when he sees that the grain has grown and ripened, he gets his sickle and begins to cut it because the harvest has come.

What else is the kingdom of God like? What earthly thing can we compare it to? The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, the tiniest seed you can sow. But after that seed is planted, it grows into the largest plant in the garden, a plant so big that birds can build their nests in the shade of its branches.

## **Time with the Children**

*(We sing 'Jesus Loves Me' as the children leave)*

**Letter:            2 Corinthians 5.6-17    The Voice**

... we live with a daring passion and know that our time spent in this body is also time we are not present with the Lord. The path we walk is charted by faith, not by what we see with our eyes. There is no doubt that we live with a daring passion, but in the end, we prefer to be gone from this body so that we can be at home with the Lord.

Ultimately it does not matter whether we are here or gone; our purpose stays fixed, and that is to please Him. *In time* we will all stand in judgment before the throne of the Anointed, *the Liberating King*, to receive what is just for our conduct (whether it be good or bad) while we lived in this temporary body.

So, because we stand in awe of the *one true* Lord, we make it our aim to convince all people *of the truth of the gospel*;

God sees who we really are, and I hope *in some way* that you'll look deeply into your consciences to see us as well. *But we hope you understand that* we are not trying to prove ourselves to you *or pull together a résumé that will impress you*. We are simply hoping that you will find a sense of joy in connecting with us.

And when you are approached by others (who may value appearances more than the heart) *asking questions about us*, you will be able to offer an answer for them. If we *seem out of control or act like fanatics*, it is for God. But if we act in a coherent and reasonable way, it is for you. You see, the controlling force in our lives is the love of the Anointed One.

And our confession is this: One died for all; therefore, all have died. He died for us so that we will all live, not for ourselves, but for Him who died and rose from the dead. *Because of all that God has done*, we now have a new perspective. We used to show regard for people based on worldly standards and interests. No longer. We used to think of the Anointed the same way. No longer. Therefore, if anyone is united with the Anointed One, that person is a new creation. The old life is gone—and see—a new life has begun!

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God!**

**Meditation**

**Rev. Dr. N. Scott Cupp**

**Announcements**

**Offertory Invitation**

**\*Response #716 (1,3) God Whose Giving Knows No Ending Spring**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)**

**All that we have, O Lord, is the result of your generosity to us. We are grateful for your care and for an opportunity to share what you have given us so that others may experience the bounty of your love. We ask you to receive our offerings and bless us in our efforts to serve you. Amen**

**Anthem**

**"Clap Your Hands"**

**Fedak**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

... We pray these together, the silent prayers of our hearts and we join in praying as our Lord taught us to pray ...

We pray in the spirit of him who taught his disciples to pray ...

**Our Father, in heaven, your name is Holy. Your Kingdom come,  
Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our sin, in the same way we forgive those who have  
done wrong to us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For Yours' is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn #748 - 2x**

**Go with Us, Lord**

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time, key of D major. The lyrics are: "Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and". There are asterisks above the notes for "Lord" and "and".

ev - ery com - ing day, that in your Spir - it

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "ev - ery com - ing day, that in your Spir - it". There is an asterisk above the note for "Spir".

strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

The third system of musical notation concludes the hymn. The lyrics are: "strong and true our lives may be our gift to you." The system ends with a double bar line.

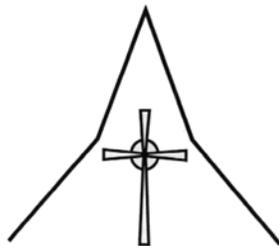
**Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**

*\*Flowers for this morning's service were graciously donated by Karen Radcliffe.*

REV. DR. N. SCOTT CUPP - PASTOR  
BETTE KAHLER – DIRECTOR OF MUSIC  
AMINY AUDI - LITURGIST  
CAROL GANOTIS AND JACKIE TALCIK - USHERS

THANKS TO NANCY STEWART, AND TOM TAYLOR  
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## **PEBBLE HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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