

# **Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church**

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



**No God ... REALLY?**

**July 25, 2021**

# Morning Liturgy

*If God does not exist, then everything is permitted*  
(Dostoevsky)

*From the Creator there came a great unifying force that flowed in and through all things – the flowers of the fields, blowing winds, rocks, tree, birds, animals – and it was the same force that had been breathed into the first man. Thus, all things were kindred and were brought together by the same Great Mystery.*

*(Luther Standing Bear – Sioux Chief)*

## Prelude

### \*Call to Worship (Responsively)

Lynda Wheat

Let every voice shout,

**every knee bend**

Let every mouth proclaim,

**every life announce**

Let every generation tell,

**every community give witness**

Let every church bring to life,

**The glory of God alive among us**

### \*Invocation (Unison)

Lynda Wheat

**The Lord's unfailing love and mercy never cease, fresh as the morning and sure as the sunrise. You created the day and the night, O God, you set the sun and the moon in their places, you set the limits of the earth.**

**I pray to you, O lord, and you hear my voice. I offer my prayer and wait for your answer. Amen.**

### \*Hymn:

**Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord**

**#452 (2x)**

(see next page)



*\*\* This morning's flowers were donated by Nancy Stewart and Carol Ganotis.*

THANKS TO: REV. N. SCOTT CUPP – PASTOR; BETTE KAHLER – DIRECTOR OF MUSIC;  
LYNDA WHEAT- LITURGIST; LYNDA WHEAT – USHER;  
NANCY STEWART, GARY QUIRK, BILL BYRNE AND TOM TAYLOR  
FOR LIVE STREAMING THIS MORNING'S SERVICE

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

# 452 Open the Eyes of My Heart



O-pen the eyes of my heart, Lord. O-pen the eyes of my heart;



I want to see you; I want to see you;



to see you high and lift - ed up,



shin-ing in the light of your glo - ry. Pour out your



pow-er and love as we sing "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly."



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, I want to see you.

## **Invitation to Confession**

Pastor

*The creator of all that we see or hear or imagine has invited us into an intimate relationship. The fact that we are here is an indication we have said, 'yes' to that invitation. And yet, when we look at the world the Lord has given us, our actions often speak to the contrary so that there is a disparity that needs to be adjusted - we call it confession, admitting we have fallen short of the intentions we have so bravely begun. Let us pray together.*

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

**When times are bad; when we are afraid; when we feel out of our element; when things are not going the way we would like them to go we are quick to turn to you, O Lord, for help. We want you to make things right.**

**When we have weathered the storm and things go well, we often forget to take a moment to say 'thank you' for what you have done for us. Generally speaking, we just go about our day to day as if you are not a factor. We act as if you don't really matter; as if you don't see the things we do or hear the things we say to one another that hurt them or harm the earth.**

**It is only when you hold a mirror before our faces that we recognize what we have done and how we have fallen short. And then, we admit those failures - like now. And so, we humbly ask that you forgive us and refresh us and our commitment to you. Make us so that we can live faithfully each day.**

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

## **\*Assurance of Grace**

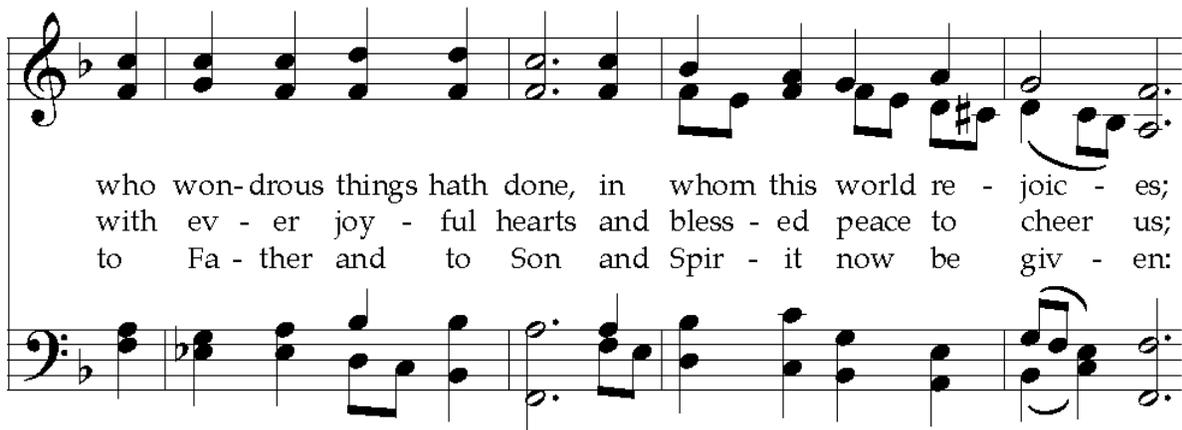
Pastor

*Now matter how many times we are told; no matter how many times we hear the good news - it seems too good to be true. We tell ourselves that it can't possibly be right - why would God or anyone else forgive me for all I have done or failed to do? Why would anyone want to give me another chance?*

*But the simple truth is - that is exactly what God does for us each and every time we ask to be forgiven. So, I invite you to believe it - because of God's incredible love, revealed through Jesus the Christ, we ARE forgiven. Let us accept this gift - and let show the same mercy to one another.*



1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es,  
2 O may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,  
3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in high - est heav - en,



who won - drous things hath done, in whom this world re - joic - es;  
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;  
to Fa - ther and to Son and Spir - it now be giv - en:



who, from our moth - ers' arms, hath blessed us on our way  
and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when per - plexed,  
the one e - ter - nal God, whom heaven and earth a - dore,



with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.  
the God who was, and is, and shall be ev - er - more.

## Prayer for Illumination

Lynda Wheat

*O Lord, when we hear your word aright, we often are brought face-to-face with who we are and how we live. We ask that you to speak to us today, make your word come alive for us so that we can take it to heart and make it a part of us. Amen.*

**Scriptures**      *Listen to the word of the Lord.*

**History:**            2 Samuel 11.1-15      (NIV)

Lynda Wheat

It was spring. It was the time when kings go off to war. So, David sent Joab out with the king's special troops and the whole army of Israel. They destroyed the Ammonites. They marched to the city of Rabbah. They surrounded it and got ready to attack it. But David remained in Jerusalem.

One evening David got up from his bed. He walked around on the roof of his palace. From the roof he saw a woman taking a bath. She was very beautiful. David sent a messenger to find out who she was. The messenger returned and said, "She is Bathsheba. She's the daughter of Eliam. She's the wife of Uriah. He's a Hittite." Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him. And he slept with her. Then she went back home. All of that took place after she had already made herself "clean" from her monthly period. Later, Bathsheba found out she was pregnant. She sent a message to David. She said, "I'm pregnant."

So, David sent a message to Joab. David said, "Send me Uriah, the Hittite." Joab sent him to David. Uriah came to David. David asked him how Joab and the soldiers were doing. He also asked him how the war was going. David said to Uriah, "Go home and enjoy some time with your wife." So Uriah left the palace. Then the king sent him a gift. But Uriah didn't go home. Instead, he slept at the entrance to the palace. He stayed there with all his master's servants.

David was told, "Uriah didn't go home." So, he sent for Uriah. David said to him, "You have been away for a long time. Why didn't you go home?"

Uriah said to David, "The ark and the army of Israel and Judah are out there in tents. My commander Joab and your special troops are camped in the open country. How could I go to my house to eat and drink? How could I go there and sleep with my wife? I could never do a thing like that. And that's just as sure as you are alive!"

Then David said to him, "Stay here one more day. Tomorrow I'll send you back to the battle." So, Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. David invited Uriah to eat and drink with him. David got him drunk. But Uriah still didn't go home. In the evening he went out and slept on his mat. He stayed there among his master's servants.

The next morning David wrote a letter to Joab. He sent it along with Uriah. In it he wrote, "Put Uriah out in front. That's where the fighting is the heaviest. Then pull your men back from him. When you do, the Ammonites will strike him down and kill him."

**Gospel:**            John 6.1-21

Lynda Wheat

Some time after this, Jesus crossed over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. It is also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd of people followed him. They had seen the signs he had done by healing sick people. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside. There he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Feast was near. Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him. So, he said to

Philip, "Where can we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test Philip. He already knew what he was going to do.

Philip answered him, "Suppose we were able to buy enough bread for each person to have just a bite. That would take more than half a year's pay!"

Another of his disciples spoke up. It was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He said, "Here is a boy with five small loaves of barley bread. He also has two small fish. But how far will that go in such a large crowd?"

Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down. About 5,000 men were there. Then Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks. He handed out the bread to those who were seated. He gave them as much as they wanted. And he did the same with the fish.

When all of them had enough to eat, Jesus spoke to his disciples. "Gather the leftover pieces," he said. "Don't waste anything." So they gathered what was left over from the five barley loaves. They filled 12 baskets with the pieces left by those who had eaten.

The people saw the sign that Jesus did. Then they began to say, "This must be the Prophet who is supposed to come into the world." But Jesus knew that they planned to come and force him to be their king. So, he went away again to a mountain by himself.

## **Wisdom:**

## **Psalm 14**

Pastor

Foolish people say in their hearts, "There is no God." They do all kinds of horrible and evil things. No one does anything good.

The LORD looks down from heaven on all people. He wants to see if there are any who understand. He wants to see if there are any who trust in God. All of them have turned away. They have all become evil. No one does anything good, no one at all.

Do all these people who do evil know nothing? They eat up my people as if they were eating bread. They never call out to the LORD. But just look at them! They are filled with terror because God is among those who do right. You who do evil keep poor people from succeeding. But the LORD is their place of safety.

How I pray that the God who saves Israel will come out of Zion! Then the LORD will bless his people with great success again.

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

## **Meditation**

## **No God eh ...?**

Rev. Dr. N. Scott Cupp

## **Offertory Invitation**

## **\*Response**

## **Doxology**

**#609**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Giving God, we thank you for all you have given us to share and to enjoy. We truly are grateful, and we bring back a portion of that goodness as our way of saying 'thank you.' Use these gifts and us in whatever way you choose so that others may receive your blessings too. Amen.

## Announcements

### 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:

### Go With Us Lord

#748 (2x)

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: 'Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day, that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.' There are asterisks above the notes for 'Lord' and 'Spirit' in the first system, and above the notes for 'day' and 'Spirit' in the second system. The score ends with a double bar line.

## Charge and Benediction

## Postlude