



Weekly News at Paw Creek

September 3, 2020

Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

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Paw Creek Presbyterian

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Sermon By Phone:

704-312-1343

- available Mondays by

11:00 am

From the Pastor...

“Sermon by Phone” - available Mondays by 11:00 am - 704-312-1343

****Note** - recording will be posted on Tuesday this week due to Labor Day Holiday**

“The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

Dear Paw Creek,

You’ve probably heard the name of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He’s remembered for his death as a martyr in Nazi Germany - but long before he was imprisoned he was recognized as one of the most distinguished theologians of the twentieth century. Among his best known books was *Life Together*, which was a very practical (for a theologian!) meditation on what it means to be followers of Jesus. In particular, he points us to the fact that we cannot be followers alone. The Holy Spirit works among us **together**, hence the title of his book.

The quote above sums up the good and the bad of his situation, and of ours. The words “physical presence” are as clear as can be, and there’s nothing offered for those who cannot gather in physical presence. In particular, there is no leeway for Zoom meetings, live-stream worship, or even telephone calls. That’s true for us as a church, but really it’s true for all people. Think about it - how many university campuses have had to close down over the past three weeks because of the deep need of young adults to be together. Even among the generations of those who are “natives” of the virtual world, virtual isn’t enough (although admittedly, they had something other than Bible study in mind when they were jam-packed together on and off campus!)

I’m writing these thoughts to call our attention to the heart of our problem. We had such high hopes in March that our lockdown would be short-lived. And I for one am still certain that we will find our way out of the maze, slowly at first and then all at once. But we also need to be honest enough to face the question: how do we live out our “life together” when the end of our isolation is not yet at hand? And, facing the question, we need to search for good answers - faithful answers - that may not be silver-bullet solutions.

For the next three weeks, our lectionary readings from the Gospel of Matthew offer us some rigorous thinking about how to be the church - they represent Jesus's desire to begin preparing his followers for the time when he was no longer with them. And they therefore represent his teachings for us. On Sunday mornings I'm going to try to look for connections between those readings under the general heading of "Life Together", and ask, with fear and trembling, what insights they might have to offer us in these unusual times. I would love to hear your thoughts and insights as we turn to God's word "together".

(Important note: I want to be very clear that the reflections above were NOT intended to pave the way for an announcement that we must abandon the effort to find some kind of hybrid form of in-person worship this fall. Session's Task Force is doing very good and creative work, and is preparing to be able to bring a report to Session very soon. I cannot jump the gun on their process, but please rest assured that the pieces are falling into place and we will communicate just as soon as possible. These reflections are not a substitute for their work, but a complement to it, since no matter what the Task Force and Session are able to come up with, we will continue to struggle with the limitations of our pandemic world.)

One of the ways that we already have to remain "together" is to allow the Holy Spirit to bind us in the communion of the saints with the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Now that we are now back schedule to celebrate communion on the first Sunday of each month, our next celebration will be this coming Sunday. **Please don't forget to have bread and beverage available when you share in the worship service.**

And of course, another important way that we continue to be "together" is through our community prayers. Please continue to remember these folks, about whom we have updates and new prayer requests:

- Celia Gray's sister Cindy is beginning immunotherapy after a diagnoses of extensive cancer spread.
- Lexi Torrence's gall bladder surgery last week was successful and she is at home recuperating with her family.
- Tanya Gross has a surgical consultation at the end of this week to schedule surgery for her broken ankle. She is still fairly immobile and having pain.
- Johnny Small's hip surgery, originally scheduled for Monday, has been postponed.
- Howie Wall has received new treatment for his infection, and will be released from the hospital soon.
- Continue to pray with Emily Adkins for her cousin Bobby Ford, who is in hospice care.
- Susan McDonald will have a procedure next Tuesday to receive a defibrillator/pacemaker.
- Andrea Timberman is receiving an infusion today for treatment of osteoporosis.
- Gene Pegram suffered a broken vertebra last month and will have a procedure on Friday to inject a cement to heal the break.
- Jeremiah Krebs will be having testing today to diagnose recent digestive problems.
- Please continue to pray for Bob & Marie Love.
- And finally, best of blessings to Frances Lyerly, who is preparing for a move to Plantation Estates in Matthews later in the fall!

We are grateful to have one another and to be "together" in Christ in this week and always. May God watch over us!

Blessings,
Elliott

Service for the Lord's Day
Paw Creek Presbyterian Church • September 6, 2020
Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

During this worship service we are invited to receive the elements of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper together. To participate with us, please have available a bit of bread or crackers, and some kind of juice or beverage.

Welcome

*The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and
the Communion of the Holy Spirit are in our midst. Thanks be to God!*

Prelude

Brothers and Sisters, We Have Met to Worship

arr. Mark Hayes

Call to Worship

Psalm 96

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble in awe.

Hymn 401

Here in This Place - Gather Us In

Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Prayer of the Day

Direct and help us, O Lord, in all our deeds, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name. And finally, by your mercy, may we obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 18: 15-20

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Homily

Life together - the gathering

Offertory

Blest Be the Tie That Binds Us Together

arr. Mark Hayes

Announcements and Prayer Concerns

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Including the *Lord's Prayer*, the Words of the Institution, and the sharing of the elements

Hymn 529

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Draw us in the Spirit's ether, for when humbly in your name
two or three are met together, you are in the midst of them.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Here we touch your garment's hem.

As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the giver break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia! So now bind our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make us sacraments of you,
that by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve with faith anew.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

arr. Diane Bish



Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

P.O.BOX 64
Paw Creek, NC 28130-0064

Seek..... Matthew 6:33
Serve 1 Samuel 12:24
Praise..... Psalm 111:1
Love Christ!.....1 John 4:12

Lord, we thank you for...

Have a Prayer Request? To put someone on our prayer chain, obtain permission from the person or family involved, then call:
Judy Smith (704) 392-2892
-or-
Ann Cashion (704) 301-0126

Know someone Who Needs a Visit? Please contact the Church Office or Rev. Elliott Hipp (704) 392-0329

Online Giving is Now Available

Paw Creek has now implemented Online Giving for the convenience of church members and our friends who worship with us. Please go to our website at www.pawcreekpc.org and follow the link on the home page.



Once you click on this link, you will be directed to set up an account. You may make this gift as a one time transaction, or you can set up recurring payments. You may use your bank account information to create this payment, or you may use your debit or credit card. (If you use your debit or credit card, you will also be given the option to add the transaction fee to your payment if you choose to do so)



For those who like to use mobile apps, you can download the app: Give+ and search for Paw Creek Presbyterian Church. Once you have created an account, it will save Paw Creek as your default Church.

Upcoming Sermon Titles

Sunday, September 6

Matthew 18: 15-20
“Life Together: The Gathering”

Sunday, September 20

Matthew 20: 1-16
“Life Together: The Rejoicing”

Sunday, September 13

Matthew 18: 21-35
“Life Together: The Forgiving”

Sunday, September 27

Matthew 21: 23-32
“The Will of the Father”