

# TOWNLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**PROPER 21**  
**Seventeenth Sunday after**  
**Pentecost**  
*September 27, 2020*

829 Salem Road - Union, New Jersey

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAY LEADER

## CALL TO WORSHIP

LAY LEADER

At the name of Jesus every knee should bend  
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.  
Glory to God. Amen.

## OPENING PRAYER

LAY LEADER

Holy God,  
all lives are yours,  
and you do not seek the death of any sinner.  
Renew our hearts, refresh our spirits,  
and help us walk in your holy way,  
that we may welcome the impartiality of your judgment  
and accept your all-embracing goodness;  
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Hymn #65 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

ALL

## CALL TO CONFESSION

LAY LEADER

The Lord spoke through Ezekiel, saying,  
Cast away from you all the transgressions  
that you have committed against me,  
and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit.  
Therefore, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

ALL

**Righteous God,  
we confess that we have not lived as your obedient children.  
We have honored you with our words,  
but we have denied you with our actions.  
We have not pursued the mind of Christ,  
who took the form of a servant,  
for we have acted with selfish ambition.  
We have put our interests before the interests of others**

**and have not regarded them in humility.  
Forgive us our arrogance,  
awaken our hearts to sincere repentance,  
and enable us to will and to work for your good pleasure,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

**LAY LEADER**

Brothers and sisters,  
God offers forgiveness of our sin  
and abundant life to those who repent.  
Turn, then, and live in Christ, our Lord.

**GLORIA PATRI**

**ALL**

**Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen.**

**THE PEACE**

**LAY LEADER**

Renewed through the gifts of God's Spirit,  
let us share our visions and dreams of peace  
by exchanging signs of Christ's peace with one another.  
The peace of Christ be with you!

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**PASTOR**

**SCRIPTURE:** Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32; Matthew 21: 23– 32

**PASTOR**

**SERMON:** *"The Enemy Within"*

**PASTOR**

**Hymn # 338** "Where He Leads Me"

**ALL**

**A TIME OF SHARING – JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PASTOR**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**PASTOR**

Through God's steadfast compassion for us,  
God has filled us with concern for our world.

Therefore, we pray for what we need, saying,  
God of compassion, **hear our prayer.**

God, you have placed a desire for truth and righteousness  
in the hearts of all people.

Uplift those who seek to live faithfully and lovingly  
by the promptings of your Spirit,  
even those who do not know your name;  
save them from despair,  
and lead them to the fullness of salvation.

For seekers of truth,  
God of compassion, **hear our prayer.**

God, you call the children of Israel  
to make known your righteousness,  
and you call disciples of Jesus to take the good news of your salvation to all the nations.  
Help those who know your name to be faithful to their calling,  
to live according to your commandments,  
and to testify to your abounding love.  
For all who believe in you,  
God of compassion, **hear our prayer.**

God, you have formed your people  
into communities of prayer and service.  
Strengthen the leaders of your church [\_\_\_\_\_].  
Give them humble and obedient hearts after the example of Christ,  
who humbled himself in obedience to you.

For ministers of the gospel,  
God of compassion, **hear our prayer.**

God, you have placed in human hearts  
a hunger to understand the structures and rhythms of creation.  
Grant wisdom to those who seek to comprehend  
the inner workings of the world,  
save them from arrogance,  
and enable them to work for the flourishing of humankind.  
For scientists,  
God of compassion, **hear our prayer.**

God, you established the nations of the world

to order human community.

Kindle love for peace among the nations and their leaders,  
save them from pride of wealth or power,  
and enable them to serve the common good.

For those who govern,

God of compassion, **hear our prayer.**

God, you hear the cry of all who are in distress.

Heal those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit [\_\_\_\_\_].

Comfort them in their need and help those who care for them.

Teach us to bear the burdens of our sisters and brothers with humility.

For the sick and those in distress,

God of compassion, **hear our prayer.**

Praying as you taught us to pray:

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come.**

**Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

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

## **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**LAY LEADER**

With grateful hearts,  
let us offer our gifts,  
trusting in God's goodness.

## **OFFERTORY RESPONSE: HYMN #606**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

LAY LEADER

Almighty God,  
we give you thanks and praise for your love shown to us  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Accept the offering of our lives in union with Christ's offering for us,  
and make us humble and obedient servants  
who will work for your good pleasure;  
through Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty God,  
now and forever. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

PASTOR

HYMN "Shalom to You"

ALL

### "OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE"

10:00 AM on Sunday – October 4

We will practice social distancing and be wearing our face coverings.  
Bring your lawn chair and join us!



### "TIME FOR PRAYER"

6:00 PM on Wednesdays

Praying by teleconference. All may call in to pray and/or make prayer requests: Dial-in using your phone: 1 717-275-8940 Access code: 367 0530

### A Note from Our Treasurer:

Please continue to **mail your weekly offerings** to the church office. **Bill Pay and other online banking options** should also be considered. Online contributions may be made through our church's website "Give Now" button:



Our church's Donation Page can also be reached using the Quick Response (QR) Code below. A QR Code is a two-dimensional, modular barcode that, when scanned by a smart phone (most phones use the camera to do this) will connect you to our Donation Page.



### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Merle Lyte
- 4 Howard Bryant
- 4 Sangi Sangekar
- 18 Richard Corritore
- 21 Pastor Ron
- 22 Diane Smith
- 24 Kathy Kreie



On behalf of the Presbytery of New Brunswick and  
The Somerset Presbyterian Church

The Presbytery of Elizabeth and  
The Congregation of  
The First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen  
Invite you to attend

### The Service of Ordination of *Nancy J. Nalepa-Skibo, M. Div.*

Sunday, October 4, 2020 at 3:00 pm  
In the Sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen  
270 Woodbridge Ave., Metuchen, NJ 08840

RSVP: To reserve a seat at the church:  
Contact Sue Harmon at (732)-491-2300 or  
Reserve a seat through Event Brite:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ordination-service-for-nancy-nalepa-skibo-tickets-121955037801>

ONLINE VIEWING OPTION: [fpcweb.org](http://fpcweb.org)  
WELL WISHERS: Welcome to send an email to  
[nancy.nalepaskibo@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.nalepaskibo@gmail.com)