

# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW VERNON



MORNING WORSHIP — JULY 28, 2024

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“Religion, whether we like it or not,  
is intimately tied to the culture in which it exists.”

Phylis Tickle *Emergence Christianity*

# WELCOME TO FPCNV

Today we hear the familiar story of Jesus feeding 5,000 people from just a few loaves of bread and two fish. This story is full of heavenly symbolism that points to God's abundance (of love and grace). It is also a powerful reminder of our earthly responsibility to freely share what we have (our abundance). When we do this, God—by some miracle—is often able to take our individual offerings and create something much greater. This is the hallmark of emergent philosophy—that in all things, the sum is greater than its individual parts.

## **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & DISCUSSION**

“I dreamed about a culture of belonging.

I still dream that dream.

I contemplate what our lives would be like

if we knew how to cultivate awareness,

to live mindfully, peacefully;

if we learned habits of being that would bring us closer together, that would help us build beloved community.”

—bell hooks

Think of a time when you have felt really welcome and at home. What do you think helped you to feel that way?

What are some of the challenges and blessings of living in a community?

THE NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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GATHERING

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**Prelude** "There Is Power, Wonder Working Power"  
Lewis Ellie Jones/arr. by Joseph Nimoh

"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus Medley"  
Helen Lemmel/arr. by Joseph Nimoh

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship (from Psalm 30)\***

Leader: The steadfast love of God never ceases.

**All: God's mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning.**

Leader: Great is your faithfulness, O God.

**All: Weeping may linger for the night,  
but joy comes with the morning,  
for you hear us when we cry.**

Leader: So we will praise you and will not be silent.

**All: Sing praises, O you faithful ones,  
and give thanks to God's holy name.**

**Opening Hymn #301\* Let Us Build a House**

**Call to Confession**

Leader: Trusting in God's forgiveness, let us together  
confess our failings and acknowledge our part in  
the pain of the world.

\*INDICATES PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR SPIRIT

## Prayer of Confession

O Christ, when the crowds surrounded you,  
hungry for bread and for your word,  
you took an offering—five loaves, two fish—  
and made for them a feast.

Still, O Lord,  
we doubt the abundance of your grace.

Still, O Lord,  
we are hesitant to share the gifts we have.

Still, O Lord,  
we wonder whether there is enough for all.

Forgive us, O God,  
and make of us a more generous people.  
Empower us to share the gift of our lives,  
and enlighten us to see the miracles around us.  
For you are the giver of grace upon grace,  
the one who turns want into plenty.

## Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Listen to these words of Jesus,

words that we can trust:

"Don't be afraid."

"I love you."

"Your sins are forgiven."

"I will be with you always."

All: Write these words in our hearts, loving God,  
let them take root in our living.

## Hymn 582\* “Glory to God”

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be. Amen.

## Passing the Peace\*

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you

All: And also with you

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## HEARING THE WORD

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## Chat with the Children

## Prayer for Illumination

Leader: For the word of God in scripture,  
For the word of God among us  
For the word of God within us

All: Thanks be to God.

## The First Scripture Lesson — *Psalm 14*

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

**The Second Scripture Lesson — *John 6:1-21***

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

**Hymn #498\*** Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

**Sermon**

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RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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**Offering and Offertory** "Beautiful City" from *Godspell*  
music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

**Hymn 606\*** Doxology

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

**Affirmation of Faith (from the Iona Community)**

We believe in God Whose love is the source of  
all life and the desire of our lives, Whose love  
was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,  
Whose love was crucified by the evil that waits  
to enslave us all, and Whose love, defeating  
even death, is our glorious promise of freedom.

Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and  
full of doubt; In God we trust: and, in the name  
of Jesus Christ, We commit ourselves, in the  
service of others, To seek justice and to live in  
peace,

To care for the earth and to share the  
commonwealth of God's goodness, To live in the  
freedom of forgiveness and the power of the  
Spirit of love, and in the company of the  
faithful So to be the church, for the glory of  
god. Amen.

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

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SENDING

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Closing Hymn 320\* The Church of Christ in Every Age

Benediction\*

Congregational Amen — John L. Bell

Postlude "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know"

William B. Bradbury/arr. by Lloyd Larson

# OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM THIS SUNDAY

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## **Cantor**

Luke Vasile

## **Liturgist**

Ewan Stone

## **Ushers**

Donna & Brook Miller

## **Coffee Hour**

Barbara Gill

## **Flowers**

# DEACONS ON DUTY

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## **Coffee Hour**

Ellie Burd & Sandy Finlayson

## **Flower Delivery**

Barbara Gill & Sandy Finlayson