



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2020

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

Prelude Prelude and Fugue in E Minor J. S. Bach

Introit God is Our Hope and Strength Eric Thiman
God is our hope and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.

****Call to Worship** (responsively) Exodus 15

Leader: The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. I will praise the God of my ancestors and exalt God's name. Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders? You stretched out your right hand, the waters swallowed them. You led your people whom you redeemed, and guided them by your strength to your holy abode. Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously.

People: Amen

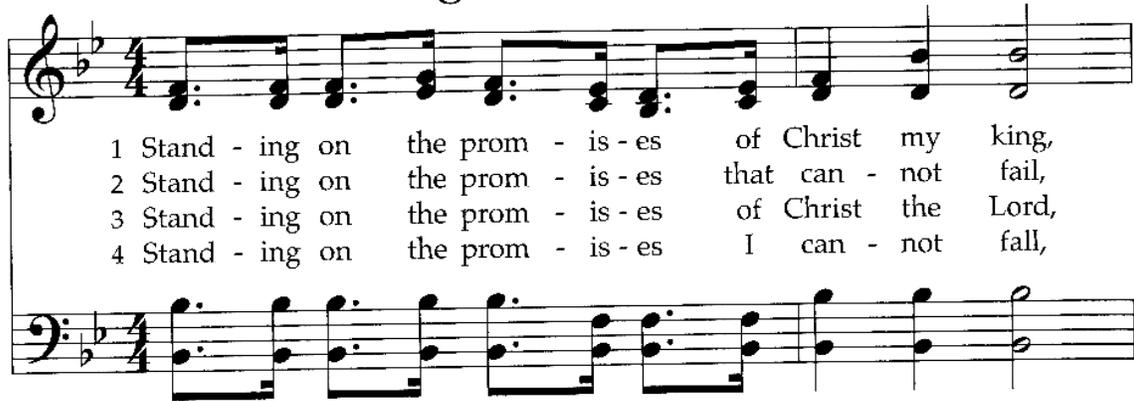
****Hymn** Standing on the Promises (Quartet only)

Prayer of Confession (responsively)

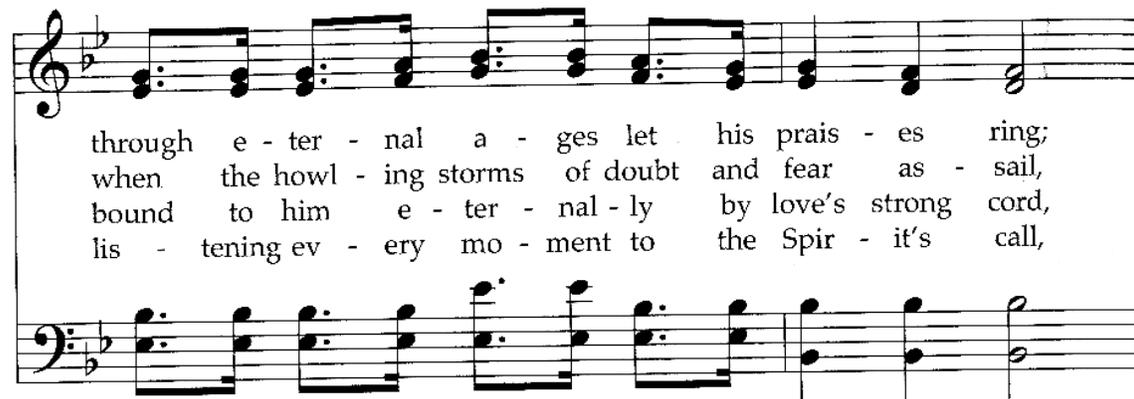
Leader: Gracious God, you call us to believe in your power and trust in your will. We confess that our faith shrinks back in proportion to the difficulty of our circumstances. We think as if we are alone and act as if there is no way forward. We forget your goodness that has always provided for us. As you forgive our shortness of memory, restore us to a new faith and trust. Help us believe that nothing is impossible with God. Help us to believe that you will deliver us; and trust that you will cure and heal us. We thank you that you are our God and we are your people.

People: Amen.

838 Standing on the Promises



1 Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ my king,
 2 Stand - ing on the prom - is - es that can - not fail,
 3 Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ the Lord,
 4 Stand - ing on the prom - is - es I can - not fall,



through e - ter - nal a - ges let his prais - es ring;
 when the howl - ing storms of doubt and fear as - sail,
 bound to him e - ter - nal - ly by love's strong cord,
 lis - tening ev - ery mo - ment to the Spir - it's call,



glo - ry in the high - est, I will shout and sing,
 by the liv - ing Word of God I shall pre - vail,
 o - ver - com - ing dai - ly with the Spir - it's sword,
 rest - ing in my Sav - ior as my all in all,



stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.

Perhaps because this hymn is so well known, its language sounds vaguely scriptural; but while there are various biblical uses of "stand" and "promise(s)," the two words are never combined. The confidence here is similar to that of "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" (see no. 353).

TRUSTING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD

Refrain

Stand - ing, stand - ing, stand - ing, stand - ing,
stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,
stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God my Sav - ior;
stand - ing, stand - ing,
stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,
I'm stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.

The musical score is written in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are placed between the staves. The first system begins with the word 'Refrain'. The melody is simple and repetitive, emphasizing the words 'stand - ing' and 'prom - is - es'. The piano accompaniment provides a steady harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines.

Silent Confession

Declaration of Pardon (responsively)

Leader: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old has been done away with, new life has begun. In Jesus Christ, God has forgiven us and set before us a new and living way! We are free; renewed to love and serve the living God! Friends, believe and trust in God's yes to us! In Jesus Christ, we are one with God, united in the bonds of love.

People: Amen.

****Gloria Patri** (Quartet only)

#581

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, Amen.

Receiving the Peace of Christ (responsively) 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

Leader: God was in Christ reconciling the world to Godself, not counting our sins against us. God has entrusted us with the message of reconciliation. We are ambassadors for Christ, God makes God's appeal through us. Receive the peace of Christ and live in harmony with all!

People: Amen.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Lesson

Exodus 14:1-18

pg. 60

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

Anthem Wade in the Water spiritual, arr. Larry Shackley
Wade in the water, wade in the water children, God's a-gonna trouble the water. See that band all dressed in white? The leader looks like an Israelite. See that band all dressed in red? It looks like the band that Moses led. Wade in the water, wade in the water children, God's a-gonna trouble the water.

Scripture Lesson Exodus 14:19-31 pg. 61
Leader: The word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon “Praying for Breakthroughs”
Reverend Dr. David Neff, preaching

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

****Hymn** How Firm a Foundation (Quartet only)

****Affirmation of Faith** (responsively) The Apostles’ Creed
Leader: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

People: Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

463

How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.

Solo

The Lord Is My Strength
Corinne Wallace-Crane, soloist

Bruno Huhn

The Lord is my strength and my song, and is become my salvation. This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Blessed be he that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Thou art my God, and I will thank Thee; Thou art my God, and I will praise Thee. O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is gracious, His mercy endureth forever. Hallelujah! Amen.

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer ("debts")

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

Prayer Response

O Light Everlasting

Jean Pasquet

O Light everlasting, O Love never failing, in our darkness give us light, and draw us near to thee.

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

****Hymn**

We've Come This Far by Faith

(Quartet only)

****The Charge and the Benediction**

****Benediction**

God Be In My Head

Malcolm Archer

God be in my head, and in my understanding; God be in mine eyes, and in my looking; God be in my mouth, and in my speaking; God be in my heart, and in my thinking; God be at mine end, and at my departing.

Postlude

Fugue in G Major

J. S. Bach

We've Come This Far by Faith 656

First system of musical notation. The treble clef staff contains the melody, and the bass clef staff contains the accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "We've come this far by faith, lean-ing on the Lord,"

Second system of musical notation. The treble clef staff contains the melody, and the bass clef staff contains the accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "trust-ing in the ho - ly Word; God's nev-er`failed us yet."

Third system of musical notation. The treble clef staff contains the melody, and the bass clef staff contains the accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "O, can't turn a - round, we've come this

Fourth system of musical notation. The treble clef staff contains the melody, and the bass clef staff contains the accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "far by faith. We've come this far by faith."

Thanks to Those Assisting in Our Service

Liturgists Leslie Deslauriers and Brian Louis

OUR MISSION AND VISION

Mission Statement: We are a diverse and inclusive community bringing people to Christ through the power of service, education, hospitality and compassion.

Vision Statement: Second Presbyterian Church seeks to be a diverse, vibrant and passionate Christ-centered community of hospitality and outreach actively serving the South Loop, the city of Chicago, and the world. We accomplish this through inspirational worship in our historic sanctuary, educational ministry to all ages, and the power of compassionate service to our neighbors.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship

Welcome to Second Presbyterian Church. All are welcome regardless of ethnicity, economic group or sexual orientation to share together in the joy and power of God's love in Jesus Christ.

Today's worship service focuses on the miraculous deliverance of the Hebrew slaves from the cavalry and chariots of Pharaoh, as God opened the Red Sea and the people marched through the sea-bottom on dry land on their route to the promised land.

The bulletin cover is *The Crossing of the Red Sea* by Marc Chagall.

Keep worship safe! As we join in responsive and unison prayers, please utter your words quietly. Songs will be sung by the quartet only.

When you greet each other, please maintain social distancing. Protecting others protects us all.

Worship is live-streamed on our website www.2ndpresbyterian.org each Sunday morning. Join us at 10:55 a.m. for the worship. Copies of sermons and bulletins will be mailed and emailed to all who request them.

Today we welcome our seminarian Brian Louis to our worship! Originally from Minnesota, Brian is a middler at the University of Chicago Divinity School. He is a member of Fourth Presbyterian Church and an inquirer “under care” of the Presbytery of Chicago. Welcome Brian!

We are near our goal of funding our new Audio-Visual Equipment. This new ministry enables our church to reach out and provide worship to hundreds of people. Please submit your gift today! Send your check or give your donation online through our secure website at www.2ndpresbyterian.org

If pastoral care needs arise, please contact the church office at (312) 225-4951. Pastor Neff and Pastoral Assistant Deslauriers are available for pastoral counseling and prayer.

We are still taking prayer requests but now you can submit them by clicking this link <https://forms.gle/72RzSMc9tAA7y5st8> so that we can pray with you and for you. All prayer requests will go to Pastor Neff, Pastoral Assistant Leslie and our Office Administrator Ashley. There is an option to mark whether or not your prayer is private.

Educational Opportunities

Every second Sunday of the month, Pastoral Assistant Leslie leads a Virtual Covid Support group at 1:30 p.m. This will be a time for folks to come and talk about their struggles with what Covid has brought to their

life: frontline workers, those who lost their jobs, those who have had Covid and had to self-quarantine or ended up in the hospital, those who have lost family members, those who are struggling with the lack of socialization. This is a time for you to come and share your thoughts and feelings and be supported. The next meeting will be September 13th. Here is the Zoom information:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83629751318?pwd=aFR4WkYwcjMvUmlIb1FNaHkyNnZLdz09>

Meeting ID: 836 2975 1318

Password: 673212

One tap mobile:

+13126266799,,83629751318#,,1# ,673212# US (Chicago)

Bible Studies:

We will be using phone calls for bible studies and Zoom for other groups. For bible studies, use the number below.

New Conference Call number: **312-248-0036**. No PIN required.

- **Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m.**
- **Tuesday Second Corinthians 1:30 p.m.**

Alpha to Omega Bible Discussion Group: monthly on the second and fourth Thursdays. New Conference Call number: **312-248-0036**. No PIN required. For more information, please contact Flea Parker at flea@golden2.net or (210) 861-6988.

RIM (Recreation and Interest Ministries) Committee

Movie Group: We will be discussing *American Factory* on Friday, September 25th at 6:30 p.m. This an American documentary about Chinese company Fuyao's factory in Moraine, Ohio, that occupies Moraine Assembly, a shuttered General Motors plant. Each person will watch the movie on their own and then we will gather on Zoom to discuss it.

The movie is streaming free on Amazon Prime and other platforms. This event is brought to you by the RIM committee.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87830257932?pwd=alNtMUh6eFpNNllobWZ0WFIDRTNodz09>

Time: August 28th, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Central Time (US and Canada)

Meeting ID: 878 3025 7932

Password: 602018

One tap mobile:

+13017158592,,87830257932#,,1#,602018# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,87830257932#,,1#,602018# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location:

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87830257932?pwd=alNtMUh6eFpNNllobWZ0WFIDRTNodz09>

Book Group: Our next book of discussion is The Night Watchman by Louise Erdich. This will take place both in person and via Zoom on September 20th at 9:30 a.m. In person, we will space ourselves in Fellowship Hall, wear masks and follow all church protocols. Others can join in via Zoom. Please email Ann Belletire if you would like to join this very lively discussion group at annabelle620e@aol.com.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82595103879> **Meeting ID: 825 9510 3879**

One tap mobile:

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Dial by your location:

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+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82595103879>

Support Our Mission and Ministry

The work of the church is critical in this time of crisis. Our ministry continues to grow in creative and innovative ways. You may now give your offering on the Second Presbyterian Church website at www.2ndpresbyterian.org. Look for the “Donate” button and scroll down, following the prompts. Thank you for your faithful giving!

Connect with Us

Dr. Neff’s sermons, poetry and reflections on ministry can be found in his blog: www.davidneff.me. To obtain copies of sermons for our Pastoral Assistant Leslie Deslauriers, please go to her blog lesliefollowsgodthroughchicago.blogspot.com

PRAYER REQUESTS (please pray for the following)

Ann and Mike Belletire – Billy Lilly; Lloyd Carter

Nate Battle – Elaine Weston; Sandy Ford; Vernon Byers; all those sick

The Session

Reverend Dr. David M. Neff, Pastor
Darlene Pollard, Clerk

2020

Eric Annafi
Dr. Lisa Henry-Reid
Dr. Argie Johnson

2021

Dr. Cliff Crawford
Anthony Ochiabutor
Vicki Reynolds

2022

Darlene Pollard
Howard Tiffen
Amy Haack

The Board of Deacons

Jane Tiffen, President
Jeremy Nichols, Secretary

2020

Nate Battle
Barbara Crawford
Mary Tibbs

2021

Denise Conway
Catherine Soberekon

2022

Jeremy Nichols
Francis Osazuwa
Jane Tiffen

Church Staff

Reverend Dr. David M. Neff, Pastor
Leslie Deslauriers, Pastoral Assistant
Michael Shawgo, Music Director
Ashley McLean, Office Administrator
Marco Alberto, Sexton

Second Presbyterian Quartet Choir

Sherry Watkins, soprano
Corinne Wallace-Crane, alto

Vince Wallace, bass



SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

Diverse. Inclusive. Community. Engaging. Passionate.

www.2ndpresbyterian.org

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