



INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

the old stone church of independence

6624 Public Sq - office@ipcusa.org - (216) 524-6307 - ipcusa.org

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 2, 2023 / Proper 8



Hebron, Cave of Machpela by Yair Aronshtam

C.J. Briggs, Music Director
Julie Lehmann, Church Secretary

Nancy Jermann, Liturgist
Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

“Grief: ancient, heavy, composed of ten or thirty or a hundred losses over a while life long, and each loss echoes all; they thrum as one and all the tears we shed are both old and new. Grief weighs. We carry it. Yet, too, it lifts, embraces, and it holds – because each loss, each flood, each inundation, is proof and affirmation that we have done the one thing we were born to do: that we have loved, that we still do.” ~ Jeanne Tessier, The Call

~ **GATHERING** ~

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *(from the Mourner's Kaddish)*

May God's majesty be revealed in the days of our lifetime.

Blessed be God's great name to all eternity.

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(from the Mourner's Kaddish)*

Exalted and hallowed be God's great name in the world.

To which we say: Amen.

Blessed, praised, honored, exalted, extolled, glorified, adored, and lauded be the name of the Holy Blessed One, beyond all earthly words and songs of blessing, praise, and comfort.

To which we say: Amen.

May there be abundant peace from heaven, and life, for us and all Israel.

To which we say: Amen.

May the One who creates harmony on high, bring peace.

To which we say: Amen.

Come let us worship God.

***HYMN** O WORSHIP THE KING, ALL GLORIOUS ABOVE! GTG #41
by Robert Grant LYONS

***POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you: we have put up walls between ourselves and you, closing our hearts to your gifts. We have sinned against each other: we have put up walls between ourselves and our neighbors giving in to fear, ignorance and arrogance. We fail to respect the gifts of all your peoples. Forgive us. Give us your blessing and help. Let us walk in your great love; through the great peacemaker, your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen. *[Silent Confession.]*

***RESPONSE** LORD, HAVE MERCY GTG #551
American folk melody LAND OF REST

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thank be to God. Amen.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

MINUTE FOR FRIENDSHIP

~ THE WORD ~

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 10:40-42

(NRSV)

TORAH READING

GENESIS 23

(Select Verses)

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

ABRAHAM MOURNED

~ RESPONDING TO THE WORD ~

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from A Brief Statement of Faith)*

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

