



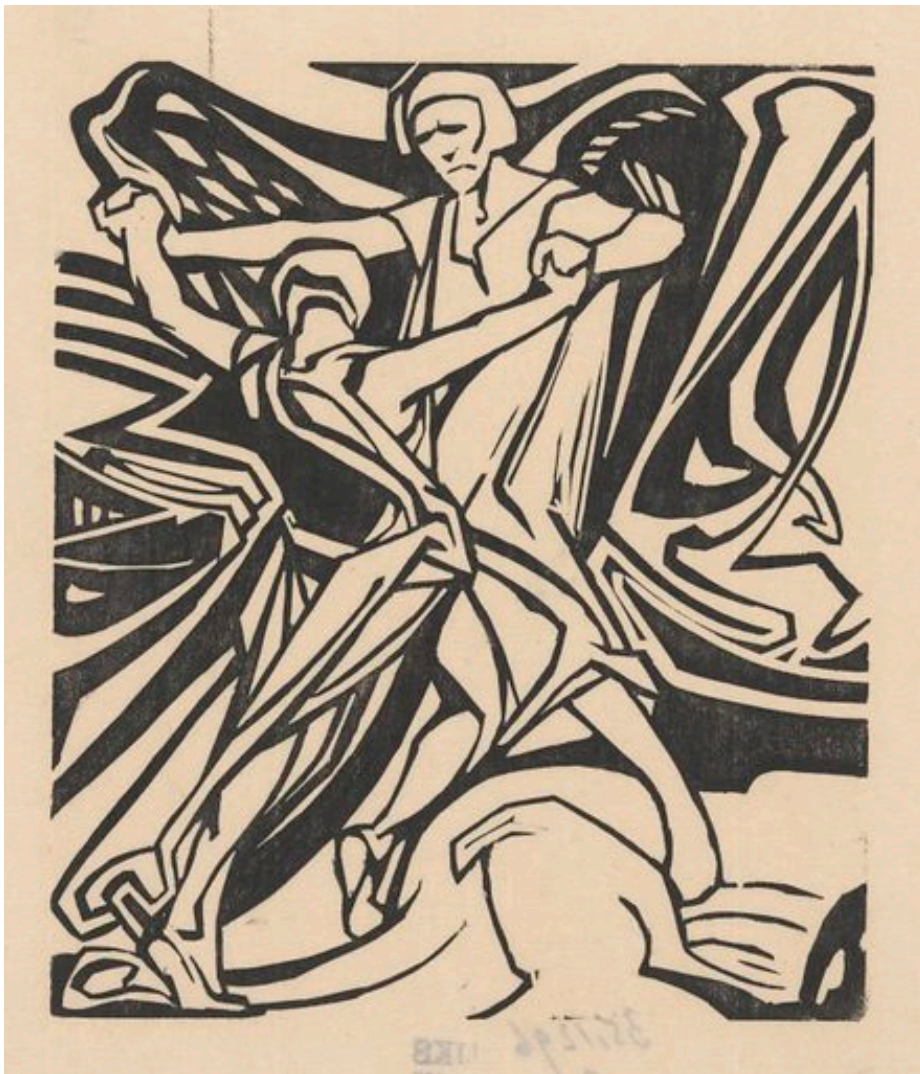
INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

the old stone church of independence

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

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 6, 2023 (Proper 13)



C.J. Briggs, Music Director

Julie Lehmann, Church Secretary

Bob Scott, Liturgist

Rev. Matt Bauhof, Guest Preacher

There is a beautiful and instructive language that we can use for naming that strange mix of awful and divine experiences in our lives...It's the language of blessing. ~ Kate Bowler

~ GATHERING ~

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *(from Genesis 32)*

Let go, for the dawn is breaking.

Bless me, O Lord, for I've striven through the night.

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(from The Lives We Actually Have)*

Blessed are we pulled between wanting to let go
and also needing to hold on.

**Blessed are we when we yearn
for connection and love and friendship.**

Blessed are we when we hunger
for the beauty of life itself and the people to fill it.

Teach us to cling to the truths that enliven our spirits.

Teach us to hunger for what is good, and be filled.

May we look for the divine in the mystery of it all,
point us back, always, to love.

Come, let us worship God.

*HYMN

GOD, REVEAL YOUR PRESENCE

GTG #412

by Gerhard Tersteegen

ARNSBERG

POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(from The Lives We Actually Have)*

Oh God, these feel like darkening days, with little hope to be found. Why does the bad always seem to squeeze out all that is good? Oh God, help us in our exhaustion and in our desperation. Bless us with eyes to see: sickness and loneliness, injustice and oppression, greed and misuse of power. God, seek us out, and find us, and lead us to where hope lies, where your peaceable kingdom will come, and your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen. [Silent Confession]

***RESPONSE**

LORD, HAVE MERCY
American folk melody

GTG #551
LAND OF REST

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

~ THE WORD ~

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 14:13-21

(NRSV)

TORAH READING

GENESIS 32:22-32

(NRSV)

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

STRIVEN WITH GOD

~ RESPONDING TO THE WORD ~

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

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

***RESPONSE** DOXOLOGY GTG #606

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN YOU ARE MY STRENGTH WHEN I AM WEAK GTG #519
By Dennis Jernigan

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

~ *SENDING* ~

***HYMN** BRING MANY NAMES GTG #760
by Brian Wren WESTCHASE

***BENEDICTION**

***SENDING** GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN GTG #541
by Jeremiah Eames Rankin (RANDOLPH) *Verse 1*

POSTLUDE

Pieces of today's liturgy are from: *Book of Common Worship* (PCUSA); *Call to Worship, Lectionary Aids; The Lives We Actually Have* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie.

Cover Image: *Jacob Struggles with the Angel*, by Johannes Josephus Aarts