

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENLAWN
August 30, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.
“Taking Up the Cross”

WELCOME

GATHERING MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP

The God of our ancestors calls us today.

May we have the faith of our ancestors to go where God leads us.

The God of our children calls us today.

*May we work for justice and peace
to build up the reign of God on earth.*

Jesus, the Son of the Living God, calls to us now.

May we worship God, follow Jesus, and be moved by the Spirit.

To do justice, love mercy,

And walk humbly with God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN # 417

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

REGENT SQUARE

*Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone.
Chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the Church in one.
Holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone.*

*To this temple, where we call You, come, O Lord of Hosts, today,
With Your wonted loving kindness, hear Your people as they pray.
And Your fullest benediction shed within its walls al-way.*

*Here, bestow on all Your servants what they ask of You to gain,
What they gain from You forever with the blessed to retain.
And hereafter in Your glory evermore with You to reign.*

*Laud and honor to the Father. Laud and honor to the Son.
Laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one.
One in might and one in glory, while unending ages run.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sojourning God, You have called us on a difficult journey. We come with so much baggage, guilt, shame, fear, and longing. We remember how things used to be, forgetting that the way has always been difficult. We long for an easier path in this world, with wealth and security, and without the struggles we face in our own lives. We have been called to hand over our burdens to Christ, to take up the cross and follow him. He has shown us that we must deny the façade of ease that is promised in this world, and instead, so the hard work of justice, showing mercy, practicing compassion, and exhibiting kindness. Forgive us, O God. May we have the strength to let go of our baggage, to let go of the longing for the world's false promises, and instead, take up our cross and follow. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

GLORIA PATRI

*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.*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Congregational Response:

*Breathe on me, breath of God. Fill me with life anew.
That I may love what Thou dost love, and do what Thou wouldst do.*

OFFERING SENTENCES

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn
497 Pulaski Road
Greenlawn, NY 11740

DOXOLOGY

*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.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Thank You, God, for the generosity that enables us to share. We are rich in many things. Help us to empty ourselves of pretense, even as we pour out gifts of gratitude. We dedicate our offerings and ourselves to shaping the community You intend, in the spirit of Christ. Amen.

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Psalm 26:1-8
Matthew 16:21-28

SERMON

“Taking Up the Cross”

Rev. Dr. Van Cleef

HYMN # 84

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

RATHBUN

*In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.*

*When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive and fears annoy.
Never shall the cross forsake me: Lo! It glows with peace and joy.*

*When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way.
From the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.*

*Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified.
Peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.*

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

*God be with you till we meet again. Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you. God be with you till we meet again.
Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet,
Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND JOYS

TO THE KITCHEN FOR COFFEE!

Meeting ID: 984 2634 4685

Passcode: 710462

Dial in: 1 646 558 8656 US (New York)