



July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019

GATHERING SONG 814 *In God Alone*

*In God alone my soul can find rest and peace,  
in God my peace and joy.  
Only in God my soul can find its rest,  
find its rest and peace.*

**GREETING**

May the God who made us and called us “good,”  
the Christ who shared our full humanity,  
and the Spirit who cleanses and empowers us for new life,  
be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**\*LITANY OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT \*\***

We pause this day to recognize that there are many among us who  
have been wounded by exploitation, coercion, manipulation, or  
violence.

**There are many among us who are suffering and  
grieving.**

There are many who need support and healing, who need their  
voices heard, who need their stories acknowledged.

**The weight of secrecy and of oppression is heavy, and  
the effects of trauma are long-lasting.**

We pause this day to recognize that all of us are impacted by a  
culture of sexual exploitation and terror, and all of our relationships  
are limited by the shadows that they cast.

Staff of First Presbyterian Church

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**By listening to one another, may we become instruments for change, bringing freedom, justice and peace.**

**\*PRAYER**

**\*SUNG PRAYER 779** *How Long, O God, Will My Prayers Be in Vain?*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Genesis 1:26-31

Hebrews 13:1-3

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**REFLECTION**

**\*HYMN 27**

*Sacred the Body*

**RELEASING OUR BURDENS**

*During the silence, please ponder: what does your stone represent for you—a painful memory? A difficult emotion? A present struggle? Then, as we sing the prayer, you are invited to come forward and release your stone into the waters of God's grace. If you aren't ready to let it go, you are encouraged to submerge it in the water before taking it back, so that you can know that God is helping you to carry it. As you return to your seat, a pastor will be available on each side of the sanctuary for those who would like a personal prayer or a blessing.*

**SILENT REFLECTION**

**SUNG PRAYER 843**

*My Soul Is at Rest*

***My soul is at rest in God alone,  
my salvation comes from God.***

**\*LITANY OF COMMITMENT\*\***

As a community of faith we will not forget those who are hurting. We will listen carefully. We understand there are those among us who suffer in silence. And so...

**We will not further silence our neighbor with platitudes or should-haves. We commit to hear their pain with respect and dignity.**

We know we must continue to challenge the power dynamics in our world that make abuse prevalent, even when these dynamics and systems benefit us.

**We will not worship ideas or institutions.**

**We will love God and love our neighbor above all else.**

We struggle to understand how the world can be so broken, but we will not let this deter us from seeking the justice and wholeness that God has promised.

**We commit ourselves to the journey ahead.**

**Those who suffer will not walk alone.**

**\*SENDING SONG 656**

*We've Come This Far by Faith*

**\*BENEDICTION**

Following the service, counselors will be available in the parlor for those who would like someone to talk to.

For further support, a small group, facilitated by a counselor, will be available this Sunday, July 14 at 4:30pm in the church library. All are welcome to attend.

\*\*Adapted from "Prayers for Survivors: A Liturgy in Protest of Sexual Violence,"

<https://strongwomenwrite.wordpress.com/2016/02/23/prayers-for-survivors-a-liturgy-in-protest-of-sexual-violence/> Accessed July 2, 2019.

\*Please stand as you are able