

Grove Presbyterian Church

Service of Worship

300 Year Anniversary of Synod

(15th Sunday after Pentecost)

10:15 AM

September 17, 2017

-- Ready for the Word --

Announcements and Welcome

Musical Prelude

arranged by Smith & Hustad

“Faith of Our Fathers”

Invitation to Worship

See Insert

“Litany of Celebration”

Leader: We will extol you, our God and King, and bless your name for ever and ever.

People: We celebrate this day, so long ago, on which we were called to serve you in new ways!

Leader: Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; God’s greatness is unsearchable.

People: A day on which we were challenged to become new, that Your church and its witness might grow.

Leader: One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

People: Through the years You have changed and challenged us, pursued and pushed us to live out Your hope in the world,

Leader: On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, we will meditate.

People: Reminding us always to seek first Your kingdom and Your righteousness above our own desires.

Leader: The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and we will declare your greatness.

People: Still today, you call us through the present age and into tomorrow with eyes fixed on Jesus, voices sharing Your grace, and hands and feet engaging the world with Your justice and mercy.

People: Together, we shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. Amen and Amen!

Choral Beginning

by Gaither

“The Family of God”

*We Sing Together

Hymnal No. 220

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

Minute for History: Synod of the Trinity

Prayer of Confession

written by Alex S. Leung

Almighty and most merciful Father, We are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin. Forgive our frivolous attitude toward life, our callousness toward suffering, our envy of those who have more than we have, our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, our indifference to the treasures of heaven, our neglect of your wise and gracious law. Help us to change our way of life so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, do what you command, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Romans 5:8

Leader: Hear the good news: there is forgiveness and steadfast love with God who saves us from all our sins. God has shown this love for us in that, while we still were sinners, Christ died for us.

People: Thanks be to God!

Minute for Stewardship: Worship

*Musical Offering – with congregation

Hymnal No. 439

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

-- Receiving the Word --

Passing of the Peace and Children’s Story

Prayer for Understanding

Old Testament Lesson (page 552)

Psalms 100

Musical Offering

American Spiritual

“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”

New Testament Lesson (page 155)

Romans 5: 1-11

New Testament Lesson (page 34)

Matthew 28: 16-20

Reflection

“Revealing Hope”

-- Responding to the Word --

Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer

Hymnal Pg. 16

Offertory

arranged by Mansfield

“Come, We that Love the Lord”

*Song of Commitment

Grove Songbook No. 30

“His Strength Is Perfect”

*Blessing

*Choral Benediction

by Misha Goetz

“The Aaronic Benediction”

*Postlude

by Krug

“Praises Unending”

*Please rise as able

Participants in today’s service include Scott Lawvere (prelude), David C. Sanders (worship leader), Merry Hackenberg (minute for history), Kessey Kieselhorst, Joy Christian (Minute for Stewardship), Lynne A. Pabst (children’s story), Combined Choirs (choral beginning and musical offering), Cherubs (musical offering), Joy Christian (organist), and Rev. Carrie Stine, (reflection, choral benediction). Visiting Preacher for next week – Mike Hamme. Reflection: Young Life

The Synod celebrates with

Presbytery of Philadelphia

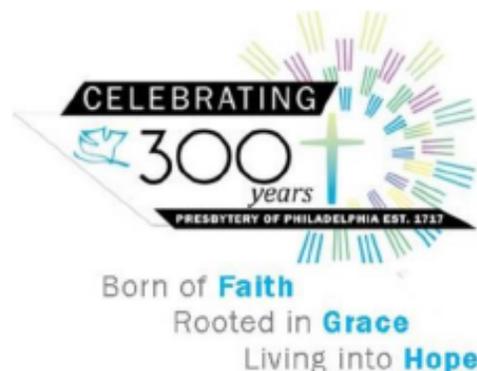
The Presbytery of Philadelphia began when “the Presbytery,” the only general meeting of American Presbyterians, voted on Sept. 21, 1716 to divide into four “subordinate meetings” and reconstitute itself as an annual general synod. Six out of 17 ministers were assigned to the new presbytery.

The sheer size of the area under its supervision — originally all of South Jersey and southeastern Pennsylvania — meant that the presbytery had only such authority over its churches as the congregations were willing to give it. Eventually, Philadelphia organized several new congregations in Lehigh, Bucks and Montgomery Counties, but in 1800 only four Presbyterian congregations existed in a city of 70,000.

Before the Civil War, Presbyterians founded congregations by “cloning.” A church would subsidize a worshipping community in a new area and send some of its elders to form a new session. By 1850, there were 37 churches in a city of 400,000. The presbytery divided itself twice in this period to accommodate this growth.

After 1867, five Presbyteries of Philadelphia reorganized into three and entered their most ambitious era of expansion. Together they founded major charitable institutions, including Presbyterian Hospital (1871), Presbyterian Orphanage (1874), Presbyterian Home for Widows (1876), Berean Institute (1899) and the Philadelphia School for Christian Workers (1907).

In 1943, after more than 20 years of negotiation, the presbytery merged to form a “metropolitan presbytery” — 176 churches with roughly 100,000 communicants covering Philadelphia and most of Montgomery, Bucks and Delaware Counties. Now, in the 21st century, the Presbytery of Philadelphia has reinvented itself as a decentralized mission support movement, concentrating its energies on its congregations’ local initiatives, on innovative ministries, on repurposing old buildings and on new worshipping communities.



The Synod celebrates with

Board of Pensions

The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is celebrating 300 years of care for ministers and other church workers. It traces its roots to the Fund for Pious Uses, established by Presbyterians in Philadelphia in 1717.

In the early 18th century, hundreds of Presbyterian Scots in Ulster, chafing under religious oppression and struggling with economic hardship, boarded ships bound for the American colonies. Most of them disembarked in Philadelphia. “How many poor souls are scattered to and fro in this wilderness, under awful danger of perishing for lack of vision,” the General Synod exclaimed in a letter to the Presbytery of Dublin in 1718.



The Synod, the first in the colonies, sought contributions to its fund for “pious uses,” which it had established a year earlier to support ministers among people of great “paucity and poverty.”

The Synod noted in 1757 that families of “great and good men ... (were) very much pinched and distressed by want and poverty.” And, as presbyteries formed throughout the 18th century, they established funds of their own to care for the families of pastors.

In the 19th century, funding of this particular benevolence remained largely a Synod function. Faithful church leaders recognized additional needs of disabled pastors who could not earn sufficient income to care for their families.

By 1983, when the northern and southern branches of the church reunited as the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the concept of care had moved from simple relief to retirement support, including pension plans and medical benefits for pastors and other employees.

Today, the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) represents the incorporation and expansion of benefits provided by the Presbyterian Church in the United States and United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America at the time of reunion. Designers of the plan rooted it in the belief that burdens are to be shared, that Scripture guides us to love and care for one another.