



**All who are led
by God's Spirit
are God's sons
and daughters.**

Romans 8:14

ORDER OF WORSHIP

At South Presbyterian Church on the Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time
July 23, 2023

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO WORSHIP

We are delighted that this Lord's Day finds you at worship with this congregation.

Our liturgy calls for engagement and participation in the praises of God.

Please note that **phrases in bold** are spoken by the congregation.

At this symbol * worshippers rise in body or in spirit as able.

Face coverings are not mandatory but we respect those who elect to wear them.

As we focus our thoughts on the presence of God among us, we listen to the Prelude and Introit and silently meditate on the Prayer of the Day (the Collect):

*O God of Jacob, you speak in the light of day and in the dark of night
when our sleeping is filled with dreams of heaven and earth.*

*May Jacob's vision remind us to be open and watchful,
ready to discover your presence in our midst. Amen.*

PRELUDE

Stephanie Quirk, Guest Pianist

INTROIT

God of Our Life
(Lyrics can be found in the hymnal #686)

H. Thomson Kerr, C. H. Purday
Gabrielle Cíntron, Soloist

GREETING AND POURING OF THE WATER

Rev. Osy Nüesch

CALL TO WORSHIP

Today's reflections will be guided by the story of Jacob,
who paused on his journey to Haran and rested.

**Let us also pause along our journey that this worship service
may be a time of re-creation for weary souls.**

Jacob dreamed of a ladder connecting heaven and earth;
with angels ascending and descending.

**May the space between heaven and earth be thin and transparent
as we enter God's presence with song, prayer, and proclamation.**

God said to Jacob: "I am the God of your ancestors. I will provide for you."

**Let us bow before the God who governs all time,
who holds past, present and future in providential care.**

Jacob awoke from his dream, and in gladness cried out:
"Surely God is in this place, and I did not know it."

Surely God is in this place!

We rest in the assurance that God is, was and will be.

CALL TO CONFESSION

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love and tenderness, you call us from the chaos of our lives as we are,
with our hopes and fears, dreams and worries.

**Allow us to feel your embrace even as you remind us of the opportunities we missed,
the gifts we have squandered,**

the time we have wasted,

the really important things for which we were too busy.

Where we have fallen short of doing your will, forgive us.

Where we have neglected others, forgive us.

For the messes we made of our lives and those of others, forgive us.

Give us strength and determination to try again.

Remind us of your patience and tender mercy,

as seen in the life of Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SILENT AND PRIVATE CONFESSION

RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

(based on *Romans 8:14-25*)

Hear the good news:

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

**For we did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,
but you have received a spirit of adoption.**

**When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is the very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit
that we are children of God.**

And if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ –

if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Friends, believe the good news!

At the right time, all creation will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

**And we ourselves – who groan inwardly while we wait for adoption –
hope with patience for the redemption of our bodies.**

Until then, know that in Christ you are a beloved and forgiven people.

And God's people joyfully respond:

Alleluia! Amen!

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Gloria Patri

GtG #581

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

(During this element of worship, please refrain from walking around or touching,
but feel free to turn around and offer a wave, smile, nod, bow, virtual embrace
or any other visual sign that conveys the notion of peace)

RELATING TO THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Inspire and guide us, patient God, through the hearing and the proclamation of your Word.

Grant to us ears to hear your truth,
vision to discern your path,
and feet ready to move into action. Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 13:24-30. 36-43

p. 14

The Gospel of our Lord!
Praise to you, O Christ!

CHORAL RESPONSE

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
(Stanzas 1 and 2 only)

GtG #367

FIRST TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 28:10-22

p. 25

The grass withers and the flower fades,
But the word of our God will stand forever.

*PSALM OF THE DAY (139)

You Are Before Me, Lord

GtG #28

HOMILY

Rev. Osy Nüesch

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

(Tithes, gifts, and offerings can be deposited in the offering plate by the main entrance)

ANTHEM

O God, You Search Me (Psalm 139)
(Lyrics can be found in the hymnal #29)

Bernadette Farrell
Gabrielle Cíntron, Soloist

CALL TO PRAYER

Within Your Shelter, Loving God

GtG #168

**Within your shelter, loving God, my refuge and my tower,
I safely walk by day and night beneath your guiding power.**

**As often as I call to you, you kindly hear my prayer.
In times of trouble and distress I rest in your own care.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

TO DEPART TO SERVE

*HYMN OF PARTING

Be Thou My Vision

GtG #450

*RESPONSIVE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Let the story of Jacob be the story of our service in the world.

God said to Jacob: “Your offspring will spread to the four corners of the earth.”

**May the love and goodness of God spread throughout the world,
as we carry the gospel news to the north, south, east and west.**

God said: “All the families of the earth shall be blessed through your offspring.”

**May all we say and do be a blessing to someone
through the grace of God at work in us.**

And God said: “I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised.”

**Let us venture forth in joy and confidence, knowing that God is with us,
before us, among us, behind us, beyond us, and within us.**

And God’s people joyfully respond:

Alleluia! Amen!

POSTLUDE

Stephanie Quirk, Guest Pianist

(Please remain seated during the postlude and allow unvaccinated worshipers
and those with health concerns to leave first)



The color of the paraments today is green, the color of growth, as we seek to grow in faith and service during this period of ordinary time.

Join South Church for Promenade at the Pond

Now on Saturday, July 29, 2023

from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

at Cooper's Pond

W. Church St., Bergenfield, NJ



This free event features:

- Free snacks (while supplies last)
- Live music performances featuring:
Blue Chip Chorus, Central Brass Quintet, Primavera Strings,
old time balladeer Thaddeus MacGregor, musical Bard of the Hudson, and Wee Jim the Limberjack.
- Historical bicycle exhibition by *The Wheelmen* and other surprises!

Period dress is encouraged but not required.

Whether you enjoy parasols, gowns, hats, boots or the dress of the working person of the 1700's and 1800's the choice is yours.

South Presbyterian Church 201-384-8932 www.southpresbyterian.net

Summer Lecture

The Huguenot Heritage of South Church

Sunday, July 30, 2023 at 3:00 pm

in the Historic South Church Sanctuary



A reception will follow in the Church House Auditorium.

David C. Major, Ph.D. and John S. Major, Ph.D. are brothers who grew up in Bergenfield and attended South Church. They are descendants of the French Huguenot David des Marets (Demarest) and his wife Marie Sohier. David Demarest was the proprietor of the "French Patent," formed in 1677, an expanse of land east of the Hackensack River that included the land on which South Church now stands. Many of his descendants were among the founders of the church in 1723. The photograph shown here, David and John's favorite joint photo, is from the dust jacket of their book, *A Huguenot on the Hackensack: David Demarest and His Legacy* (2007). David and John remain active in their own professional fields, respectively global environmental change, and the history of ancient China.

This is a free event which is part of the 300th Anniversary Celebrations.

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