

# Ark and Dove Presbyterian Church, USA



-The Southern Cross  
Cape Town, South Africa, August 4, 2018

## **SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION**

Today, O God—  
let me put right before interest;  
let me put others before self;  
let me put lasting good over passing pleasure;  
let me put principle above reputation;  
let me put You before all else. Amen.

--from John Baillie, *A Diary of Private Prayer*

# 8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## COMMUNION

July 14, 2024

9:00 & 10:30 am

### PREPARATORY MUSIC

Deep River

- arr. Harry T. Burleigh

### THE PRESENTATION OF SCRIPTURE

#### THE CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Deuteronomy 6:4-7)

Leader: Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

People: **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.**

Leader: Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.

People: **Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

#### HYMN NO. 63

The Lord is God

(Congregation may stand)

- arr. Lowell Mason

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have made for ourselves idols of false ideals, distorted values, and unworthy objectives. Therefore, we have denied our goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us so that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Now in the silence, we approach you with our personal prayers.

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

#### RESPONSE NO. 851

Come, Bring Your Burdens to God

(Congregation may stand)

- arr. Welile Sigobi

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### WELCOME, FRIENDSHIP REGISTERS, LIVE-STREAM CHECK-IN, AND JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

*(We invite you to sign in on our red Friendship Registers found at the end of each row.)*

#### HYMN NO. 291

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

(Congregation may stand)

-James K. Manley

### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

#### HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40: 18-20, 28-31

#### GOSPEL READING

Mark 6:14-29

### RESPONSE

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

"Idol Curiosity"

- Stephen Price-Gibson

### THE OFFERING

#### MUSICAL OFFERING

No Other God

-Steph Macleod

#### RESPONSE NO. 609

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

(Congregation may stand)

- Hal Hopson & David Crowder

### DEDICATION OF OUR TITHES, OFFERINGS, ELECTRONIC AND ONLINE GIVING

#### HYMN NO. 520 (refrain)

Taste and See

(Congregation may stand)

- James E. Moore Jr.

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**RESPONSE**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts,

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**THE MORNING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE SHARING OF THE CUP**

Today we will share communion in our seats. Please come forward when directed to take the fruit of the vine and bread from a server. Note that gluten free options are available from a separate plate. Return to your seat and offer a silent prayer or meditate for a moment, then consume the elements. Communion is open to all who trust in Jesus.

**HYMN NO. 307**

(Congregation may stand)

**God of Grace and God of Glory**

- John Hughes

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING MUSIC**

**No Other God**

-Steph Macleod

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE SIGN TEAM!** The Sign Team needs volunteers to assist with updating the marquee sign. If you are interested in joining the team, please reach out to Amy Goldberg at [agoldberg@arkanddove.org](mailto:agoldberg@arkanddove.org).

**GUATEMALA TRIP QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSIONS, today,** Ark and Dove Room, after both services. POC [cheryl.walcutt@arkanddove.org](mailto:cheryl.walcutt@arkanddove.org) or [sheer.atkinson@arkanddove.org](mailto:sheer.atkinson@arkanddove.org)

**DISABILITY JUSTICE TEAM MEETING** The Disability Justice Team will meet on **Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 - 8:00pm** in the Marshall Room and over Zoom. Contact Erin Curran ([erin.curran@arkanddove.org](mailto:erin.curran@arkanddove.org)) or Stacy Burvant ([stacy.burvant@arkanddove.org](mailto:stacy.burvant@arkanddove.org)) with questions or concerns!

**2024 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL- COMPASSION CAMP** 2024 VBS: Compassion Camp- **Aug. 5-9, 6-8pm** for ages PK (4)-Rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Registration now open. For more information or to sign up as a helper contact [sara.fox@arkanddove.org](mailto:sara.fox@arkanddove.org) or [jackie.scheer@arkanddove.org](mailto:jackie.scheer@arkanddove.org). Scan the QR code for the link or see the Arkive.

**URGENT NEED DONATIONS** The Light House Homeless Prevention Center Client Pantry has an urgent need for shelf stable proteins such as peanut butter, tuna, and canned beans. Donations can be placed in a bin in the hallway by the Godly Play rooms. There is a sign stating where the donations can be placed. Thank you to everyone who has donated items to the Light House in the past months.

**ARK AND DOVE BOOK CLUB JULY SELECTION** You are cordially invited to join the Ark and Dove Book Club on **Friday evening July 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm** for a hybrid discussion of the Angie Kim novel "Happiness Falls." Please contact Kim Champagne ([kim.champagne@arkanddove.org](mailto:kim.champagne@arkanddove.org)) for more info.

**HOPE IN ACTION** Help turn out the vote in November - mail postcards! Order cards and addresses here: <https://www.turnoutpac.org/postcards/> or contact Paula Sparks for more information. [paula.sparks@arkanddove.org](mailto:paula.sparks@arkanddove.org)

**THANK YOU EVENT FOR SUNDAY MORNING CE LEADERS** We wish to invite all Sunday Morning CE Leaders and Volunteers to a Thank You Event to occur at the church, between the two services on July 21st. Contact [Ann.Zelenka@arkanddove.org](mailto:Ann.Zelenka@arkanddove.org) and [Amy.Tardiff@arkanddove.org](mailto:Amy.Tardiff@arkanddove.org) for more information.

At times lively, with bursts of dancing and joy, and - at times - pin-drop quiet as commissioners and observers listened to the voices at the mics, General Assembly 226 – themed **Live into Hope** – was an ever-faithful time for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to ask profound questions about the shape and future of Christ’s church.



► **New stated clerk, co-moderators**

The **Rev. CeCe Armstrong** and the **Rev. Tony Larson**, both of South Carolina, were [elected co-moderators of the 226<sup>th</sup> GA](#), and the **Rev. Jihyun Oh**, born in South Korea and reared in Kansas, [was elected stated clerk](#), the highest ecclesial office of the denomination.

Elected the night before business proceedings began, Armstrong and Larson presided over the day-to-day business, but [in an overhaul of standing rules](#), the **moderatorial election will move to the end** of the assembly instead of the beginning in 2026. The overhaul also eliminates “mission advisory delegates,” creating partner advisory delegates instead.



► **Unifying budget of OGA and PMA**

GA adopted a **\$94.9 million budget for 2025 and \$95 million for 2026**, [resulting in a 14.8% increase in per capita](#) over the two-year span. In 2025, per capita will be \$10.84, and \$11.26 in 2026, increasing from \$9.80 this year. Because of an earlier decision by the Commission on the Unification of the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency, all the budget items added at this assembly (\$600,000+ per year) were charged to the per capita budget, regardless of how they would be spent.

► **Sexual orientation, gender identity protections**

Commissioners approved a two-part inclusivity change to the *Book of Order*, [adding gender identity and sexual orientation](#) to the list of the “rich diversity” reflected in the church’s membership (recommendation 1, section F-1.0403) and then recommending [an examination of these principles for ordination and installation](#) (recommendation 2, section G-2.0104b) that could determine a “candidate’s ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation ...” If POL-01 is approved by more than 50% of presbyteries, these changes will be added to the *Book of Order*.

► **Fossil fuels and climate justice**

After a protracted debate on alternative recommendations for [aligning the values of the PC\(USA\) with its investments in fossil fuels](#), the GA initially approved overture ENV-02 encouraging categorical divestment in fossil fuels and other efforts to respond to climate change. However, in a historic turnabout, the assembly reversed its decision, disapproving ENV-02 and approving ENV-06, which directs **further engagement with greenhouse gas emitters and the fossil fuel industry**.

► **Medical coverage, small church flexibility**

GAEC-28 asks mid councils to work with the Board of Pensions to [explore adjustments to be made to medical dues plans](#) for Pastors and Spouse or Families to **help alleviate the burden on small congregations and present medical coverage options** for pastoral leaders needing family, spousal, or child coverage in 2026 and beyond.

GA unanimously agreed to develop educational resources for faith formation for congregational use and to meet the needs of the small church.

► **Divestment from occupier countries**

GA unanimously adopted a commissioner’s resolution asking The Presbyterian Foundation and the Board of Pensions, the two primary investing arms of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), to “prayerfully consider” [ending their investments in government debt](#) from countries “engaged in prolonged military occupation,” currently defined by the United Nations as Israel, Morocco and Turkey.

► **Prison justice**

GA unanimously passed DOE-02, **encouraging ratification of a U.S. Constitutional amendment [abolishing the exception clause in the 13th Amendment that allows any person convicted of any crime to be enslaved](#)**, and also passed a commissioners resolution urging Presbyterians to call upon elected officials to enact legislative or administrative reforms ending prolonged solitary confinement in jails, prisons, and detention centers.

► **Protecting children from gun violence**

DOE-03, an overture calling for action [so that children can live free from gun violence](#), passed easily in committee but was removed from the consent agenda so the entire assembly could hear testimony about it. Following heart-wrenching witness, co-moderator Tony Larson spoke and said, [“The stories are important, but they are hard](#). They are important because they have residence in our communities.” DOE-03 passed the assembly unanimously.

► **Changes to special offerings**

The [four special offerings currently received by the PC\(USA\) will be reduced to three](#), and proceeds will be distributed to causes instead of programs. The changes in FIN-12, which take effect for the 2026 offerings, include eliminating the Pentecost Offering and moving the ministries it has supported to a restructured Christmas Joy Offering.

► **The rejection of Christian Zionism**

The GA passed on consensus the [update and expansion of the resolution confronting Christian Zionism](#) approved in 2004. Through the Office of Theology, Formation and Evangelism, GA calls on the denomination to reject Christian Zionism in all its forms, acknowledge the expansion of Christian Zionism in all its forms, and issue a study document that addresses the expansion of Christian Zionism since the 2004 policy.



► **Stay informed with updates from the Presbyterian Outlook:**

Visit our **website**: [pres-outlook.org](http://pres-outlook.org)  
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Would you like **text/SMS messages** with news from our denomination?

Scan the QR code or follow this link:  
<https://pres-outlook.org/text/>



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**Welcome!** We hope you enjoyed worshipping with us and that you will come again. In-person worship is at 9:00 and 10:30 AM. Our 10:30 service is also live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook. Would you like a pastor to contact you? Would you like to learn more about Ark and Dove? Please send a note to [admin@arkanddove.org](mailto:admin@arkanddove.org).

**Sunday Mornings for Children and Youth**

**10:30 AM**  
Childcare

After the Children’s Sermon: Sunday School Pre-K through grade 5

*We are a Matthew 25 church, a More Light church, and Earth Care Congregation  
See the Arkive E-newsletter for more information.*

**Ministry Leaders**

**Liturgist** – Kim Champagne (9:00), Cathy Debus (10:30)  
**Usher** – Greg Makar (9:00), David Lawson (10:30)  
**Beadle**- Bryn

**DONATE ONLINE!**

**Or TEXT your donations! 410-983-3481**  
Text **give** to get started. Text **commands** for more options.

8424 Piney Orchard Parkway, Odenton, Maryland 21113  
[www.arkanddove.org](http://www.arkanddove.org)  
410-674-6400

TIMOTHY STERN – PASTOR  
REBECCA BELL ECHOLS – DIRECTOR OF MUSIC  
NINA HAWKINS – CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR  
PASTORS CAROLINE PRICE-GIBSON & STEPHEN PRICE-GIBSON – PARISH ASSOCIATES  
KARLA KOLL, COSTA RICA – MISSION CO-WORKER  
BETSEY MOE, CEDEPCA, GUATEMALA – MISSION CO-WORKER  
JENNIFER KUBIT-MCCULLOUGH – ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
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