



# *Protestant Fellowship Community Newsletter*

## *July 2021*

### **Worship – When, Where, Who, How, What and Why**

“God is spirit, and his worshipers [i.e., we] must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”, John 4:24

“The LORD said [to Elijah], ‘Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.’ ... After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.”, 1 Kings 19:11-12

Each of these questions about “Worship” can spark lengthy conversations and writings and treatises longer than this space can accommodate. So, for this month, these comments are just the musings and reflections of one who was raised in, strayed from and returned to the Church.

Consider the question of “Why worship?”. It seems like an easy question to answer – at least to answer in words. He, the LORD, made us and will provide for all our needs, and He made this world, the sun, the moon, and the planets; also, He made the stars. We are asked to believe those things and to put our absolute trust in Him and follow His directions for our lives. Easier said than done. In our worship, in my worship, we strive to worship so that worship is full of reverence, is prayerful and is praise-ful in response for all He has done.

“Where do we worship?” I think it is possible and appropriate to worship God at the seashore, while hiking through Redwood National Forest, while standing in the middle of the Sistine Chapel, while praying in a simple outdoor chapel at church camp, while stopped in heavy traffic on Street Road. Location does not matter, though we need to be attentive to the needs of others around us. Praising God while stopped in an intersection on Street Road might not be the best location!

“When do we worship?” One answer is 24/7. All the time. And to an extent I think that is true. Do we only worship when circumstances (i.e., God’s blessings) are in our favor? Or when they are not? Our type of worship – thanksgiving or deep prayerfulness or enthusiastic praise – may vary, but circumstances should not govern when we worship. Paul advised us to rejoice with those who rejoice and

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**Weekly Worship Services for July 2021**  
**each Sunday at 2:00 pm from the chapel**  
**via live Broadcast on ACTV channel 976 / 980 (HD)**

July 4	Robert McQue, Sr., Lt. Colonel, Retired Organist: Joan Kirk; Pianist: Betty Kingston	 
July 11	Rev. Sean Tripline, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Spring House, PA Organist: Bud Williams; Pianist: Betty Kingston	
July 18	Rev. Brad Leight, St. John's United Methodist Church, Ivyland PA Organist: Joan Kirk; Piano: Betty Kingston	
July 25	Rev. Kang Na, Protestant Pastoral Associate at Ann's Choice Organist: Susan Bishop; Pianist: Betty Kingston	
August 1	Rev. Larry Westerveld, Trinity Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Hatboro, PA; Organist: Susan Bishop; Pianist: Betty Kingston	

### **In-Person Worship Services**

We continue to worship in-person in the Ann's Choice chapel, with services also broadcast on the Ann's Choice Chapel Channel. We have not yet completely defeated the virus. Masks are becoming optional for those who are fully vaccinated. Social distancing is still preferred. Preregistration to attend worship is not required.

### **Revive Your Spirit on the Chapel Channel**

The Chapel Channel is airing a daily schedule of uplifting and inspiring program. Learn about the Dead Sea Scrolls, or enjoy the *Musical Reflections* and *Favorite Hymns of Faith* organ programs by Bud Williams.



### **Quiet Reflections and Prayers:**

The Chapel at Ann's Choice is open daily from 8:00am – 2:00pm.

### **To Receive this Newsletter:**

Contact Rev. Kang Na at [Kang.Na@Erickson.com](mailto:Kang.Na@Erickson.com), (215) 443-4925, or in the Pastoral Ministries offices in Liberty. Make sure to include your email address for receipt of this newsletter by email, or your apartment to receive it in your cubby.

### **Rose Gardens and Chestnut Pointe:**

Large group activities are suspended until further notice. Pastoral Visits and Home Communion are still available. Contact Pastoral Ministries at (215) 443-4925.

## Bible Study:

Weekly Bible study continues to meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am in the Liberty Commons Music Room. Zoom will continue to be used to provide access for those not able to meet in person. Rev. Kang Na is leading the Bible study.

Contact Rev. Na at (215) 443-4925, Pastoral Ministries offices in Liberty or [Kang.Na@erickson.com](mailto:Kang.Na@erickson.com) for more information about the Bible study or connection information for using Zoom on your laptop, computer or smartphone, or by regular telephone.

If you are curious about the Bible, and its significance in world history and for human life, please join us. The Bible study is intended to deepen our knowledge of **what the Bible is, says, and means**. Everyone is welcome to join us on this journey. We are looking at different passages in Genesis and in the Gospels to discover and remember **what the Bible is, what it said to contemporary readers, what it means, and what it says to us**, especially for our faith journey.

All are welcome, and all questions are welcome, so that together we might encourage and challenge one another on the joyful and sometimes hard road that is Christian discipleship.



## Second Saturday Cinema in July

Second Saturday Cinema will be in the PAC on Saturday, July 10 at 7:00 with a pre-show at 6:45. We will be showing **Yankee Doodle Dandy**.

This is a musical portrait of composer / singer / dancer George M. Cohan who produced, directed, wrote and starred in his own musical shows. George Cohan was born in Providence, RI on July 3, 1878 and died on November 5, 1942 in New York City of cancer.

This program is sponsored by the Protestant Fellowship Council as a ministry to our fellow residents, friends and staff at Ann's Choice. No donation will be requested.



## Hold the Date – October 16, 2021

On Saturday, October 16, the Protestant Fellowship Council will host an all campus retreat entitled "The Hem of the Cloak" presented by resident Mary Lee Friesz.

Stay tuned for additional details.

## Supporting Our Ministry and Mission:

You can help support the mission projects and ministries of the Protestant Fellowship. Donations may be enclosed in an envelope addressed to Rev. Na and taken to any clubhouse front desk. Donations by check are preferred; please make the check payable to "A. C. – Protestant Fund".

On the memo line, please write "Donation."

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mourn with those who mourn. In other words, worship and prayer are appropriate in all circumstances for a variety of reasons.

I don't think the question “What do we worship?” applies. The word “what” is inanimate, and God has made Himself known to us in Three Persons. So, perhaps we may ask “What is the right manner of worship?” As I was told in graduate school in another context, there is no single correct answer to the question. My recollection of the teaching of the Presbyterian Church is that when worship occurs, the Word of God is proclaimed in word and deed. Simple, yet complex answer. The type of music used in worship around the world varies in different cultures; it varies from one denomination to another, and it varies among churches of the same denomination. Praise music, Gregorian chants, Handel's *Messiah*, organ, piano, bells, guitar – all and more can be part of worship. The liturgy of the worship service may be formal, or not. Holy Communion, in my opinion, should be celebrated often and with the reverence it deserves; it should never become a meaningless ritual though. Sermons may be read from highly edited texts or delivered without any written notes whatsoever. During this pandemic we have gotten used to worship online via YouTube or video streaming or direct TV broadcast. What would we have thought about online worship two years ago?

“Whom do we worship?”, or “Who worships?”, or “Who is center of attention during worship?” I think the question of “Whom” may be answered with “we worship the God who made, preserves and redeems us”. As to “Who worships”, one answer might be that those who are meeting God in Spirit are the ones who are worshipping. Outward appearances may make it difficult to identify those who are truly worshipping. Consider the poor widow who gave all she had - her two very small copper coins (Mark 12:42), or Mary with the alabaster jar of nard (Mark 14:3).

“Who is at the center” of our worship. All of us in the worship service are there to worship the LORD, God Almighty. In Revelation we read that “the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives for ever and ever.” Generally, we sit in pews or chairs or benches facing the front of the sanctuary where the preacher is and where the choir may be. There may be bell choirs, worship bands, soloists, music leaders in the front for all to see. And yet, I was told and taught many years ago, that none of them should be considered as the central focal point of my worship experience. Each of us is not a spectator or bystander during worship. From God's perspective, what matters is how I respond; what matters is how each of us responds.

And lastly, “How do we worship?” The simple answer is in John 4; we are to worship in the Spirit. The more difficult answer is also in John 4; we are to worship in the Spirit.

Prayerfully submitted by John Hodges