

October 20, 2024
Liturgical Color – Green

22nd Sunday After Pentecost

Job 38:1-7, 24-41

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:

“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

What is the way to the place where the light is distributed, or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth? Who has cut a channel for the torrents of rain, and a way for the thunderbolt, to bring rain on a land where no one lives, on the desert, which is empty of human life, to satisfy the waste and desolate land, and to make the ground put forth grass? Has the rain a father, or who has begotten the drops of dew? From whose womb did the ice come forth, and who has given birth to the hoar-frost of heaven? The waters become hard like stone, and the face of the deep is frozen. Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades, or loose the cords of Orion? Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season, or can you guide the Bear with its children? Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you establish their rule on the earth? Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, so that a flood of waters may cover you? Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go and say to you, “Here we are”? Who has put wisdom in the inward parts, or given understanding to the mind? Who has the wisdom to number the clouds? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens, when the dust runs into a mass and the clods cling together? Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, when they crouch in their dens, or lie in wait in their covert? Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God, and wander about for lack of food?

Slackwood Presbyterian Church
2020 Brunswick Avenue
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Embracing God. Extending Welcome. Celebrating All.



Artwork by Sandy Murray

Sunday, October 20, 2024

10:30 a.m.

-- GATHER TO WORSHIP--

As a consideration to all who seek to worship this morning, please turn off or mute cell phones and other electronic devices.

Bell of Invitation

Welcome & Announcements

(Children's bulletins are available from an usher.)

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

Call to Worship

Leader: Come into God's presence and shout with the heavens,

People: our God is very great!

Leader: Clothed with honor and wrapped in glorious light,

People: our God is very great!

Leader: Serving tirelessly and caring endlessly,

People: our God is very great!

Leader: Calling us to humility and compassion,

People: our God is very great!

All: Come into God's presence, to listen and hear God speak.

*Hymn #611 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" HYMN TO JOY

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession (*In Unison*)

Creator God, we look around and see how we fall short in our attempts at faithfulness. We often do things, not because it is what you call us to do, but in hopes of earning points with you. We can become so self-absorbed, we cannot see the suffering and struggles of friends, family, strangers. We are so desperate to get to the front of the line, we push aside the very ones you seek to honor. Forgive us, Holy One. Remind us that the cup we are offered overflows with grace, that the waters of baptism cleanse and make us new, and that Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, is the One who calls us to service, standing by our side, as we seek to be faithful disciples. (*moment for silent prayer*). Amen.

*Words of Assurance

*Gloria Patri (#581)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

(Following the time of confession, children 3 through 10 may leave for Children's Church.)

HEARING OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading -- Psalm 104:1-9, 31-35

The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem "Bless the Lord" Jacques Berthier

Second Reading – Job 38:1-7, 24-41

The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "God's Hands" The Rev. David Bowman

*Hymn #32 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" ELLACOMBE

Reception of New Members

Presentation of New Members

Jack Gortatowski, Jaqueline Robinson

Profession of Faith

*Affirmation of Faith – "*The Apostles' Creed*"

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Question to New Members

Pastor: We have professed our faith as one body. Will you be faithful members of this congregation, sharing in its worship and mission through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

New Members: I will, with God's help.

Blessing of New Members

Words of Welcome

All: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

*Hymn #306 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" (vs. 1)

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

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.

A Future With Hope Moment -- The Session

Call for Offering

Offertory

*Doxology (#606)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn #314

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

"Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness"

*Charge and Benediction

DEPART TO SERVE

**Those who are able may stand.*

The Peace Candle in the Chancel is lit to remind us of the gift of Christ's peace and our call to be peacemakers.

Christ's Ministers in the World: All members of the church

Pastor: The Rev. David Bowman

Director of Music: Dr. Shelley Sanders Zuckerman

Liturgist: Eric Johansen

Welcome to everyone who is worshipping this morning. If you are visiting, we hope you will feel very welcome and that you will stay for refreshments and conversation in fellowship hall.

Pastor Bowman's contact information:

Email: dfbsbv@gmail.com or Telephone: 732.547.3480

A Future with Hope Daily Prayer

In your generosity and grace, O God, grant me the wisdom to see ways I can gratefully give of my time, my gifts and skills, and my resources to make our community of faith more vibrant, and our times together even more joyful as we live into a future with hope.. Amen.

Announcements

Sunday School for Middle & High School Youth is held each Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

The **Adult Forum** will meet on October 27 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. The link will be in the Saturday announcements email.

The **Board of Deacons** will meet following this morning's service of worship.

On **Sunday, November 17 at 4:30 p.m.** in the church sanctuary, the Presbytery of The Coastlands will conduct a service of installation for the Rev. David Bowman as pastor of Slackwood Church. A reception will follow. Plan to attend.

Coming Events:

Sunday, November 3 – following morning service of worship Discussion of the book *Across That Bridge* by John Lewis. Bring your lunch and join the discussion even if you did not read the book. The discussion time will also be available on Zoom. The link will appear in Saturday announcements email on November 2.

Sunday, December 8 – following morning service of worship Brief prayer service out in front of the church in recognition of Human Rights Day.

Those people and places remembered in last Sunday's morning prayer are: Debi & Doug, Carrie, Mary, Carol, Joan & Dennis, Karen & Merle, Pam, Brooke, Michael, Samantha, Jonathan, Sharon, Ben, people impacted by hurricanes, unemployed and underemployed, those impacted by war and violence, the marginalized, Jacqui, Jimmy, Kim, MJ & Richard, Dee, Ron, Bryce, Arduini family, Torres family, Sharon, Samantha, Joann, Marilyn, Mylan, John, Johnny, Francine, MaryBeth, Susan & Mike, Stefanie & Steve.

Slackwood's Mission Statement

Slackwood Presbyterian Church is a diverse, caring Christian community: guided by scripture, committed to loving God, loving our neighbors as we love ourselves and sharing Christ's love with all people.

Slackwood's Vision Statement

We envision glorifying and serving God by being an example to each other, the community, and the world through:

- vibrant worship,
- faithful prayer,
- relevant study,
- joyful fellowship,
- compassionate service.

We strive to build a safe community that embraces:

- all ages,
- people of color,
- the LGBTQIA+ community,
- people with disabilities,
- other marginalized people.