



Welcome to Wilton Presbyterian Church

July 11, 2021

7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

We are glad that you found us and that you are here. We are a progressive, welcoming and inclusive congregation seeking both to know Christ and to make Christ known to people from all walks of life. We pray that we will become better acquainted with you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Change My Heart, O God
Eddie Espinosa

Zachary Wright

* RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Chris Tate

One: Jesus said, "Follow Me." We don't always know what that means. We are on a journey of discovery.

Many: **We are here because we want to be God's people; we are here because we are broken and want to be whole again; we are here to celebrate our lives, and God's presence in this life.**

One: Let us worship God with great thanksgiving.

* OPENING HYMN #821 *How Can I Keep from Singing?*

* OPENING PRAYER

Amazing, Confounding God, we gather as those who have caught a glimpse of the glory and the goodness you intend for your creation. The vision you give us makes us ever restless in this world, as we yearn for your fuller revelation in time and history. Free us, and our world, from all bondage to sin and futility; makes us your true daughters and sons, through the power of your Holy Spirit, at work within us. Amen.

When this symbol (*) precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit

Continue to next page



UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

When we put off until tomorrow our response to your call, forgive us, O God. When our good intentions are not followed by good actions, have patience with us, O God. When we harden our hearts, making all kinds of excuses why we should not serve you, O God, have mercy. Today when we hear your voice, may we rise up to hear and then act, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Bryan Campbell

SCRIPTURE READING

Amos 7:7-15

This is what he showed me: The Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand. And the Lord asked me, "What do you see, Amos?"

"A plumb line," I replied.

Then the Lord said, "Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer.

"The high places of Isaac will be destroyed
and the sanctuaries of Israel will be ruined;
with my sword I will rise against the house of Jeroboam."

Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: "Amos is raising a conspiracy against you in the very heart of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words. For this is what Amos is saying:

"Jeroboam will die by the sword,
and Israel will surely go into exile,
away from their native land."

Then Amaziah said to Amos, "Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there. Don't prophesy anymore at Bethel, because this is the king's sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom."

Amos answered Amaziah, "I was neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. But the Lord took me from tending the flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

GOSPEL READING

Mark 6:14-29

King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him."

Others said, "He is Elijah."

And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago."

But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!"

For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him.

Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests.

The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom."

She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?"

"The head of John the Baptist," she answered.

At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb..

SERMON

"A Rather Heady Sermon"

ANTHEM

Be Still, My Soul
Arr. Lloyd Larson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Ann White

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 and ever. Amen!

***CLOSING HYMN #307** *God of Grace and God of Glory*

*** BENEDICTION**

*** POSTLUDE** *When In Our Music God Is Glorified*
Charles Villiers Stanford





Rev. Chris Tate is a minister of the word and sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

A full-time Dad, Chris also serves Chair of the Nominating Committee for the Presbytery of Southern New England, and Chair of the Board of Directors for Pacific House in a housing and human services organization focusing on homelessness, based on Stamford, CT.



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<u>Class of 2022</u> Bryan Campbell Patty Connor Jock Wright	<u>Class of 2022</u> Rachelle Bernabei Liz Archibald
<u>Class of 2023</u> Cathy Ratcliffe Reshan Richards Alison Wood	<u>Class of 2023</u> Patti Dormer Julie Stein Ann White Marianne Wilson

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