

Welcome to Wilton Presbyterian Church August 15, 2021

12TH 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 What Is the World Like When God's Will is Done? Zachary Wright

Sally Ann Morris

* **RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:** from Psalm 4

Anthony Trujillo

Leader: Answer me when I call, O God of my right!

You gave me room when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

Congregation: How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?

How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?

Leader: But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself;

the Lord hears when I call to him.

Congregation: There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!

Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!"

Leader: You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain

and wine abound.

Congregation: We will lie down and sleep in peace;

for you alone, O Lord, make us lie down in safety.

* OPENING PRAYER/PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of story and of history, by your word you brought the world into being in a powerful creative act that set all stories and journeys into motion. Your word has been a guiding light for many peoples in many places; it has created places of comfort and refuge in tumultuous and troubled times. As the psalmist says, your word has been a lamp to our feet and a light to our paths. But we also know that people have used your word to sanction a host of vicious, unconscionable acts.

From validating practices of exclusion and denigration, to justifying the confinement and killing of individuals and entire populations, people – who claim to be your people – have used your word as a powerful weapon of violence and subjugation. We confess that the narratives that emerge from practices of violence – past and present – continue to have powerful shaping power in our lives, our communities and our congregations. We confess that, all too often, we have been quick to concoct and to consume narratives that make us and our ancestors heroes, and equally quick to deny and silence the voices of those who reveal the darker side of our grand ideals. In fact, claiming divine rights with force has often produced profound wrong. And our peace has often come at the expense of others' insecurity. O God, Let the light of your face shine on us, so that we might see the fractures in our narratives and our communities, and be healed by your truth-speaking, life-giving word. Amen.

OPENING HYMN #27

Sacred the Body

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Julie Stein

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING Joshua 11:9-14

And Joshua did to [the Canaanites] as the Lord commanded him; he hamstrung their horses, and burned their chariots with fire.

Joshua turned back at that time, and took Hazor, and struck its king down with the sword. Before that time Hazor was the head of all those kingdoms. And they put to the sword all who were in it, utterly destroying them; there was no one left who breathed, and he burned Hazor with fire. And all the towns of those kings, and all their kings, Joshua took, and struck them with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them, as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded. But Israel burned none of the towns that stood on mounds except Hazor, which Joshua did burn. All the spoil of these towns, and the livestock, the Israelites took for their booty; but all the people they struck down with the edge of the sword, until they had destroyed them, and they did not leave any who breathed.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

"Confronting and Confounding Narratives of Biblical Violence" **SERMON**

ANTHEM

Healer of Our Every Ill Marty Haugen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jock Wright

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 #757 Today We Are Called to Be Disciples

* BENEDICTION

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying * Postlude

Arr. Jack Schrader



Anthony Trujillo is a member of Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, one of the six Tewa speaking pueblos located in the upper Rio Grande Valley. He is a first-year PhD student in American Studies at Harvard University with a Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School where he received two awards for imaginative and evocative preaching. Academically, he focuses on Indigenous engagements with – and resistance to – colonial/imperial religious and political systems in the 18th and 19th centuries while seeking to draw connections with the sovereignty movements of contemporary Native nations and descendent communities. He is also the coordinator of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Working Group at Harvard. He is a member of the Native American Coordinating Council tasked with making recommendations to the Presbyterian Church USA regarding its repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery. He is currently a candidate for ordination under the care of the New York City Presbytery.



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| Class of 2021 Buck Burnaman Forrest Close Berta Hull (Clerk) Jason Rice | Class of 2021 Sonny Kern Dee King Becky Shroyer Cathy Thomas |
| Class of 2022 Bryan Campbell Patty Connor Jock Wright | Class of 2022 Rachelle Bernabei Liz Archibald |
| Class of 2023 Cathy Ratcliffe Reshan Richards Alison Wood | Class of 2023 Patti Dormer Julie Stein Ann White Marianne Wilson |

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