

This week's news...



January 21, 2021

Love Becomes Our Legacy

Dear Friend,

It's uncharacteristic for me to have the television on during the day. When I work, I need quiet — perhaps music to fill the silence — but talking heads distract me. Like the old song says, "I get the news I need from the weather report..." Truth be told, I get the news I need from reading the *New York Times* in the morning, listening to NPR in my car, and watching the ABC Evening News at 6:30 as a prelude to the rarely missed "Jeopardy!"

Yet yesterday, from 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., I alternated between CNN and Fox News. (I'm fascinated at how the exact same events can be so differently viewed and interpreted!) The inauguration held my riveted attention as I love all things political and revel in pomp and circumstance, tradition, and ritual.

So many highlights in what has to be the most unusual inauguration in history — yet the one that was most inspiring was the National Youth Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman's, reading of her work, "The Hill We Climb."

The opening stanza is this:

***When day comes we ask ourselves, where
can we find light in this never-ending shade?
The loss we carry, a sea we must wade.
We've braved the belly of the beast. We've
learned that quiet isn't always peace. In the
norms and notions of what just is isn't
always justice.***



This preacher's heart was warmed given that this week's scripture reading is the 3rd chapter of Jonah — who knew something about braving the "belly of the beast"! Biblical references in the vernacular, while at one time more readily recognized than today, nevertheless remain a vital component of the American lexicon. Given that biblical literacy is on the decline, one wonders how long references of this genre will remain relevant or understood. Today, most people connect Jonah to the belly of a whale. Yet, for poetic purposes, that's enough!

This is the stanza that really struck home:

We will not march back to what was, but move to what shall be: a country that is bruised, but whole; benevolent, but bold; fierce and free. We will not be turned around or interrupted by intimidation, because we know our inaction and inertia will be the inheritance of the next generation. Our blunders become their burdens. But one thing is certain, if we merge mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy, and change our children's birthright.

Sounds so much like what the church strives to do — leave a legacy of love as our children's birthright — and how inspiring to hear these words from a "skinny Black girl descended from slaves and raised by a single mother [who] can dream of becoming president, only to find herself reciting for one."

Yesterday's peaceful transition of power and leadership was a great testament to the resolve and resilience of the American people and our republic and, while there were many noteworthy persons involved, no one provided more hope and promise than our nation's Youth Poet Laureate!

With profound gratitude for God's grace in allowing me to live in this time and this place and to serve the good people of First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield — I remain

Yours in Christ,



CONVERSATIONS ON RACE

Conversations on Race continue each Sunday from 9-9:45 a.m. on Zoom at [this link](#). For this week's discussion please watch Amanda Gorman's reading of her Inaugural poem, "The Hill We Climb." [Link here](#).



Each week's resources are linked in the weekly email newsletter and on the [Adult Ed](#) page of the website. Questions? Email Becky Bryan, rebeccabryan@me.com.

ON-GOING...

Doug's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m. on Zoom, Doug hosts an informal conversation about the scripture that will be the text for the following Sunday's sermon. The text for **Tuesday, January 26** is Mark 1:21-28. Here's the Zoom [link](#).

Speaking Truth in Love: Nikki's class "Speaking Truth in Love: How to Be an Assertive Christian" continues on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Find the syllabus [here](#) and the Zoom link [here](#).

Nikki's Bible Study: Join Nikki on Thursday evenings at 6:30 for an in-depth study of **Revelation**. Here is the [Zoom link](#), and here is the [Syllabus](#).

Porch Bible Study, studying the Book of Ephesians, meets next on February 2 at 7 p.m. Ephesians reveals many of God's wonderful truths including that we are all loved and accepted by Christ and saved through faith. We will discuss what different religious teachers and pastors say about the book by Paul that discusses both God's love for us and how to be mature Christians. Deb Nussbaum and Jill and Tony Mascena host this Zoom study. We end every session with prayer concerns. All are welcome. If you would like the Zoom link, please contact the church office to be put on the Porch Study mailing list.



On Tuesday, our church bells rang out in memory of those lost to COVID. Here is Nancy Ruth Wainwright taking her turn to ring.

MUSICAL MEDITATION FROM MARK

Give Me Jesus, arr. Marianne Kim

In the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.
You may have all this world, give me Jesus.



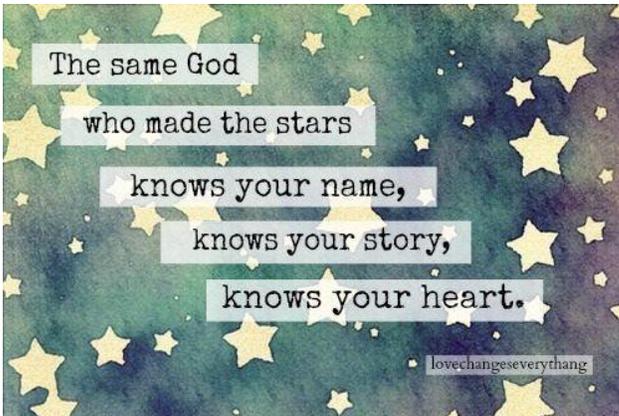
[Listen here](#)

Marianne Kim is a Chicago-based composer, pianist, organist, and harpsichordist. She has been noted for her vibrant performances and compositions in a wide diversity of musical styles.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS!

THIS WEEK IN YOUTH GROUP – Virtual Youth Group is back this week! We have a couple of ideas brewing – Pictionary, Home Scavenger Hunt, Trivia? All 3? Join us Sunday and find out. Check your email for the Zoom link. Not on the email list? Contact [Gab Heimerling](#) for the info.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



How amazing it is that we can have a conversation with God? In our story we learn about two people and their conversations with God. In the first part of our story Hannah prays TO God and God answers her prayers by giving her a son, Samuel. In the second part of our story, that same Samuel hears FROM God, but it takes him a few times to realize that it's God calling him. God calls Samuel's name not once but three times. Not surprisingly it takes Samuel a few attempts to finally get that God is speaking directly to him. I read somewhere that the sweetest sound to anyone is the sound of their own name. Doesn't it make you feel good when someone remembers your name? Yes, God knows your name! It's up to you to listen for when God calls it.

STEWARDSHIP

Please send in your pledge for 2021 if you have not already done so. Use [this online form](#) or fill out [this PDF](#) and email it to [Kris Bean](#) or drop it off during the drive-through. The church counts on your support for the programs and missions that allow us to be Christ in the world. Thank you.



A NOTE ON PLEDGE ENVELOPES – Pledge envelopes this year DO NOT have numbers. You can use your existing envelope number and either write the number or your name on the outside of the envelope.

LENT BEGINS IN 3+ WEEKS

We are compiling a Lenten Devotional with devotions written by church members, and you are invited to participate. See instructions and scripture readings [here](#) and sign up for a specific date [here](#). Contact [Anne Vial](#) with questions.

ANNUAL MEETING AND REPORT

This year's annual meeting of the corporation will take place on Sunday, February 21. If you are in charge of a committee or church organization, it is time to submit your segment of the annual report to Anne Vial.

ST. WILFRID'S OPEN DOOR CLINIC

This week marked the 44th straight week that the Open-Door Clinic at St Wilfrid's has distributed food during the pandemic; 110 bags, 3,976 totals. Over 99,400 pounds of food and dry goods have been given out!



Our need is men's coats more than anything. Although it was a beautiful sunny winter day last Saturday, it's going to get colder. Some of our patrons show up in only sweatshirts. Amazingly, we satisfied all except one. We ran out of men's coats. Out of nowhere, men will come to us asking for a winter coats. Their wives or girlfriends have told them about St Wilfrid's. They don't want food, but they need a coat. Thanks to all who have donated hats, gloves and coats/jackets previously. Know it is making a difference!

Help wanted with Food Bank Pick-up: We need help on Monday, January 25, for Food Bank Pick-up. We are scheduled for 8:15 a.m. at the SJFB and usually we are at St Wilfrid's 8:45-9:30. Good exercise! If you can help, please contact Rose Guthrie at intrepidrose@hotmail.com

Current needs are winter jackets/coats - sizes L, XL, and XXL. Ask neighbors and friends if they are cleaning out closets. Costco is currently selling good puffy winter jackets for \$20. Grocery bags from Shoprite, Whole Foods, or Trader Joe's, -paper grocery bags to line the plastic bags, and newspaper bags. **Grocery needs** - peanut butter, tuna, pasta, rice, adult and kid's diapers, and wipes, bar soap, toothpaste, and toothbrushes. And.....we are accepting new or almost new toys for next Christmas. These donations may be dropped off at the Drive Through after church on Sundays, or any day of the week in the bin behind Grace Church. Questions or if you can help in any way, please call Jill Mascena at 856-428-7342 or check out the website www.opendoorcliniccamden.org

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Jan. 21 - 6:30 p.m. Nikki's Bible Study
Jan. 24 - 9 a.m. Conversation on Race
Jan. 24 - 10 a.m. Worship
Jan. 24 – Donation drive-through, church driveway
Jan. 26 – 8 a.m. Doug's Bible Study
Jan. 27 – 7:30 p.m. "Speaking the Truth in Love" class
Jan. 28 - 6:30 p.m. Nikki's Bible Study
Jan. 31 - 9 a.m. Conversation on Race
Jan. 31 - 10 a.m. Worship