May 24, 2020

7th Sunday of Easter

First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint

Mickey Quinn, Elder

Annie Welle, Pianist

*Start camera, Opening Music*

*Light candle*

*Ring the bell*

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint. I am Mickey Quinn and I will be leading today’s service as Pastor Andy Kennaly is away. Joining me in the church sanctuary today is our pianist, Annie Welle.

For the past several weeks, our services have been conducted in an empty sanctuary and broadcast via Facebook Live. These videos have been posted to our Facebook Page and on our website which is [www.fpcsandpoint.org](http://www.fpcsandpoint.org). Next Sunday, May 31st, we will be resuming in-person worship services. There are a few special announcements pertaining to that event which I will share now.

Next Sunday, May 31st is the first Sunday after Memorial Day, which marks the start of our church’s Summer Hours. Worship Services in the summer months start at **9:30am**.

We will be practicing recommended guidelines regarding social distancing, asking those not in the same household to stay at least 6 feet apart, to sit in the sanctuary following those same guidelines, to make use of hand sanitizer stations which will be available at each entrance, to wear a facemask, and most importantly, if you are at high risk, have someone in your household who is high risk, and/or you or someone in your household is feeling sick, please stay safe and stay home.

Next Sunday is Pentecost. We celebrate Pentecost to recognize the gift of the Holy Spirit, realizing that God’s very life, breath and energy lives in all of us. Everyone is encouraged to wear **red** next Sunday to represent the tongues of fire that came to rest on each of the disciples, filling them with the Holy Spirit.

Today is the 7th Sunday of Easter. On this day we are reminded of how Jesus reaffirmed the complete union between Jesus and the Father. Throughout John’s Gospel, Jesus has been presented as the Word, who pre-existed with the Father and was sent to do the Father’s work on earth. In John’s writings, we learn that Jesus’ life and ministry have been directed toward one purpose, revealing the Father. When this work is accomplished, Jesus is to return to the Father to be glorified. Regardless of what happens to Jesus, in John’s Gospel, Jesus and the Father are in charge. Even in the description of Jesus’ death, Jesus does not simply die but instead hands over his spirit. Let us remember that we too have the Holy Spirit within us, we are all one. Though we may face uncertainty and even suffering, know that Christ is in our midst, and in us. Let us worship God.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, may we be guided today by God's Spirit,
- and walk always as children of your Father.

Through your Spirit, intercede for us with the Father,
- that we may be made worthy to receive what you promise.

Give us a generous heart, that we may not seek our selfish interests,
- but be concerned for the good of others.

Teach us to know God,
- that we may advance in knowledge of you and the Father through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Peace of Christ be with you! *(And also with you)* Thanks be to God!

Today’s scripture readings start with **Psalm 68: verses 1 – 10**.

 Our second scripture reading is from the book of **Acts chapter 1: verses 6 – 12**. This is after Jesus’s resurrection, when he had appeared to and spoke with his disciples, giving them instructions they were to follow leading up to and after his Ascension.

Words of Witness *(see separate attachment)*

Now, let’s enjoy some wonderful piano music that Annie will share with us.

This is the time in our worship service where we typically pass the offering plate. It is important that we give of ourselves and share our financial gifts with others. Your gifts may be mailed to First Presbyterian Church, 417 N. 4th Ave, Sandpoint, ID 83864. You may also give by visiting our website [www.fpcsandpoint.org](http://www.fpcsandpoint.org) and clicking on the “Give” button on the home page. Thank you for your generous gifts. Your financial gifts, as well as your gifts of your time and talents, help to support the work, ministry, and mission of First Presbyterian Church in Sandpoint.

Let us pray:

Faithful Father, thank you for the gift of abundant, eternal life. Your generosity overflows to us. Everything we have is a gift from you. As we bring our offerings to you, we give back to you from the abundant blessings you have given us. May our gifts be acceptable in your sight O Lord our God. Blessing and glory, wisdom, honor, power and strength, be unto you our God for ever and ever. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

*Charge & Benediction:*

As we end our worship today, let us pray: Dear Lord, let us remember how You love us and protect us, let us feel deeply in our hearts the great love You have for us. Help us to live our lives today as Your children with generous hearts , open minds and helpful hands.

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

*Closing music.*

*End Facebook Live.*