**July 12, 2020 6th Sunday after Pentecost 11 AM**



**Spirit Healer**, 1998, Norval Morrisseau

**PRELUDE** “Come! Live in the Light”

**WELCOME** Jeff Courter

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Lydia Tembo

Leader: In the midst of strife, God is with us!

**All: Come, O Lord, and pour your word into our hearts.**

Leader: In the anguish and grief of everyday living, God is with us!

**All: Hear our cries, O Lord, and quiet our spirits!**

Leader: Come, let us open our hearts and spirits to the Lord.

**All: We come, with confidence and hope in the presence of God. AMEN.**

**HYMN#749** “Come! Live in the Light”

1. Come! live in the light!  
   Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!  
   We are called to be light for the kingdom,  
   to live in the freedom of the city of God!

***Refrain***: We are called to act with justice.  
We are called to love tenderly.  
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.  
  
2. Come! Open your heart!  
Show your mercy to all those in fear!  
We are called to be hope for the hopeless,  
so all hatred and blindness will be no more!

***Refrain***

**CALL TO CONFESSION** LydiaTembo

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Patient Lord, it is so easy for us to focus on all the things that are wrong. We spend

much time and energy in anger and sorrow, leaving behind the possibilities of hope

and service to you. Ease our hearts, O Lord. Forgive our willingness to get caught up in the negative. Direct our steps toward positive actions that will produce growth and peace. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

(moment for meditation and silent confession)

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God hears your cries and heals your wounded hearts. God is preparing you for good things to come. Place your trust in God who has always loved you and will always love you. AMEN.

**PEACE** Let there be peace on earth, **And let it begin with me.**

May God’s peace be with you. **And also with you.**

**RESPONSIVE READING** Psalm 119:105-112 (NIV) Margaret Chau

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. 🕈

**I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws.**

I have suffered much; preserve my life, LORD, according to your word. 🕈 **Accept, LORD, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your laws.**

Though I constantly take my life in my hands, I will not forget your law. 🕈

**The wicked have set a snare for me, but I have not strayed from your**

**precepts.** Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart. 🕈

**My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end.**

**GOSPEL READING**  Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 Lydia Tembo

**13**That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. **2**Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. **3**Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. **4**As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. **5**Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. **6**But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. **7**Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. **8**Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. **9**Whoever has ears, let them hear.”  **18**“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: **19**When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. **20**The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. **21**But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. **22**The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. **23**But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

**SERMON**  “Cultivating Culture” Lydia Tembo

**HYMN** “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”

***Refrain:*** Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of Your word.  
Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.

If my heart is hard, break the stone away. If my heart is cold, warm it with the day.  
If my heart gets lost, lead it to Your way.  
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord. let my heart be good soil.

***Refrain***

If my way is dark, help me understand.

Should I start to faint, refresh me with your command.

If the thorns surround, life me to higher ground.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord. let my heart be good soil.

***Refrain***

**What We Believe (from the Confession of 1967)** Lois DeLong

**God has created the peoples of the earth to be one universal family.**

**In reconciling love, God overcomes the barriers between sisters and brothers and breaks down every form of discrimination based on racial or ethnic difference, real or imaginary.**

**The church is called to bring all people to receive and uphold one another as**

**persons in all relationships of life: in employment, housing, education, leisure, marriage, family, church, and the exercise of political rights.**

**Therefore, the church labors for the abolition of all racial discrimination and ministers to those injured by it. Congregations, individuals, or groups of Christians who exclude, dominate, or patronize others, however subtly, resist the Spirit of God and bring contempt on the faith which they profess.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**OFFERING**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION / THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**  “Come! Live in the Light”

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**Nadina Grants**, Clerk of Session  **Samira Clarke,** Nursery School Director

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The Mission of The First Presbyterian Church of Forest Hills is to welcome all people into our diverse family of Christian faith and fellowship, to experience and celebrate God’s presence in worship and daily living, to share the love of Christ by reaching out to those in need, and to proclaim by word and deed the message of God’s love and the Gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.