



“Returning to the Promise: Promise of Overcoming”
18th Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 2020

WELCOME

Thank you for worshipping with us today!

If you have an email address and want to be on POP's weekly announcement list, please let the church office know. You can find worship each week at <https://princeofpeace-er.org/podcasts/>. DVD's of the previous Sunday's worship are available by contacting the church office at 715-479-9263.

If you would like to support the mission of Prince of Peace so that we can continue worship, community outreach, and other ministries, you can give any amount by cash, check, online, through the Give+ app by Vanco, or by sending a text to 833-394-7887 (text your dollar amount and follow the prompts). Thank you for your generosity.

ORDER OF SERVICE *The assembly speaks the bold verses*

THRESHOLD MOMENT AND SILENT CENTERING

The Apostle Paul writes in his letter to the Church in Rome, “For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” (Romans 4:16-18)

It is that same hope that carries us forward, that cries out to us to not be afraid, that tells us we are children of God and heirs to the promise. It is the same hope that inspired poet Jan Richardson to write these words:

Hope nonetheless.

Hope despite.

Hope regardless.

Hope still.

Hope where we had ceased to hope.

Hope amid what threatens hope.

Hope with those who feed our hope.

Hope beyond what we had hoped.

Hope that draws us past our limits.

Hope that defies expectations.

Hope that questions what we have known.

Hope that makes a way where there is none.

Hope that takes us past our fear.

Hope that calls us into life.

Hope that holds us beyond death.

Hope that blesses those to come.

MUSIC *“Nothing Can Separate Us Now”* by Bryan Sirchio

There's a simple promise that changes everything

When we choose to build our lives upon it

A very simple promise that causes hearts to sing

When we know we can rely upon it

Nothing, nothing, nothing, nothing!

Nothing in this world can separate us now

Nothing, nothing, nothing, nothing!

Nothing in this world can separate us now

From the Source of Love

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.

When we fall into the traps

of groundless fears,

you deliver us.

When an epidemic of worry

threatens to overcome us,

you protect us.

When harmful words

are flung at us,

you answer our cries for help.

Gracious God,

we worship you.

When our lives crumble,

you urge us to buy hope's fields.

When we are tempted by wealth,

you point us to those

who have nothing but share all.

When we are eager
to grasp senseless lies,
you wrap our hands
around God's promises.
Servant of the poor,
we follow you.

When the world silences our hope,
you give us the words to make
the good confession of faith.
When we have lost our way
and can no longer endure
the emptiness of our lives,
you satisfy us from the abundance
of God's grace and joy.
Sheltering Spirit,
we seek your peace.

God in Community, Holy in One,
our Refuge, our Trust, our Hope,
we lift our prayer to you.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 15:1-6

¹After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

PSALM

"Restore Us" (Psalm 80) by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Refrain:

Restore us Let your face shine
Restore us Give us your life

Verse 1:

God, be with us here We need you now
Our hearts are always turning back to you

Verse 2:

God, you've always been our saving love
Our hearts are always coming home to you

Pastoral Reflection

Pastor Andrea Fluegel

VISIO DIVINA

“Beauty” By Barb Zima

Open my eyes to the beauty of your creation, Oh Lord
Blot out the images of hate
Shut out the voices of discord
A walk in the woods along a lonely path
But, wait, I am not alone
Surrounded by your creation, I see and breath in your love
The trees create a golden path as I shuffle along
Announcing the end of a season and the beginning of another
A season not to fear or retreat from the cold
A season for hope and renewal
A season to work for justice in our land
Open my eyes to the beauty of your creation, Oh Lord
Open my heart to love
Open my hands to serve
Open my ears to hear
Open the door to truth and compassion
Open our lives to joy
I am not alone, Oh Lord, as you walk the path of life with me
The beauty of your creation gives me hope.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

“Broken Body of Christ” by The Many around prayers like look around Underscore “Broken Body of Christ” By The Many music without vocals

**We are the wand’ring
We are the seeking
We are the ones left out to dry
We are the bleeding
Our hearts are weeping
We are the broken body of Christ.**

**And when we eat, we are fed
The love of God has given
And when we drink
We take it in
This love, this earthly heaven.**

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

We thank you, O God, that you have given us an enduring hope—one which cannot disappoint us or mislead us. We thank you, that through our faith in you and in your Son Jesus Christ, you enter into every believing heart and make new lives that have been torn asunder by the darkness of this world.

We ask today, O God, for those who have lost hope and for those who have never had it. Grant to us and to those we lift before you in our hearts a new and abiding vision of what you have done, and what you are doing, and what you will do, to save and redeem your people and indeed the creation itself. Grant, O God, that all might see and believe and discover their purpose and the purpose of all that is and all that is yet to be.

Eternal God, amid all the turmoil and changes of the world your love is steadfast, and your strength never fails. In this time of danger and trouble, be to us a sure guardian and rock of defense. Guide the leaders of our nation with your wisdom, comfort those in distress, and grant us courage and hope to face the future; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Sustain all who suffer with the promise of new life. Assured of your presence, heal our pain and suffering, and equip us to embrace all bodies aching for wholeness of mind, body, and soul. We call to mind those who are struggling today. We lift up to you all people, places, and circumstances that are on our hearts and minds to you, O compassionate Lord.

We pray for all managers in our community and for all who seek employment. Give hope and a future to those who lack meaningful work, those who have been marginalized or abused in the workplace, and those who desire new opportunities.

Lord Christ, you came into the world as one of us, and suffered as we do. As we go through the trials of life, help us to realize that you are with us at all times and in all things; that we have no secrets from you; and that your loving grace enfolds us for eternity. In the security of your embrace, we pray.

We ask all this of you, O God, knowing that you are our hope and our salvation, a very present help in times of trouble, and the One whose purpose is to grant new and abundant life to us and our world. Praise be to your name. **Amen.**

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
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.**

**We are the thirsty
Looking for mercy
We have all been kicked aside
We are the stumbling
Our hands are fumbling
We are the broken body of Christ.
And when we eat, we are fed
The love of God has given
And when we drink
We take it in
This love, this earthly heaven.**

MUSIC “We Are a People of Hope” - Thomas Wayne Nichols & Daniel Gordon Chadburn

Chorus:

We are a People of Hope,
Joyfully Singing, Faithfully Clinging
To the Promise God made at our birth
We are the Children of God
Hungry for Justice, Filled with Compassion
We are a People of Hope

Why are the children crying?
Who has turned them away?
At God’s table ALL are welcome
Sing of God’s love all your days. *Chorus*

We are called (Jesus commands us) to love one another
This is the law above all
Welcome the stranger, comfort the orphan
Reflecting God’s love in your ways. *Chorus*

Neither height, Nor depth, Nor hate, Nor fear
Can separate us from God
Neither height, Nor depth, Nor hate, Nor fear
Can separate us, separate us from God. *Chorus*

BENEDICTION AND SENDING (based on Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16)

God’s promises endure from generation to generation.
May the God of Abraham and Sarah, the God who sent Jesus to redeem us,
the God whose covenant is eternal, bless you and make you fruitful.
In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

Gathered by grace.

Sent to serve. Thanks be to God!

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Opening Prayer, “Call to Worship, Opening Prayer: Proper 21 C

,” written by Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies Website. Accessed through re:Worship, Posted on September 4, 2013.

Prayers of the People, “Prayers of the People: An Enduring Hope,” Adapted from Rev. Richard J. Fairchild, and posted on Kir-shalom. Accessed through re:Worship, Posted on October 25, 2013.

Benediction and Sending, adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2006, and posted on the Worship Elements page of the Ministry Matters website. Accessed through re:Worship, Posted on February 16, 2012.

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Announcements

* On Wednesday, September 23, 2020, the Church Council approved moving to Phase 1.5 of the Prince of Peace Re-Opening Plan. **Beginning on Sunday, October 4, 2020, we will have a shortened communion worship service in the Fellowship Hall on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of the month from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** It will be similar to what took place on Consecration Sunday. We will gather in groups of no more than four household units, with masks, and socially distant, scheduled every 30 minutes. Weekday communion will continue be held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays and Wednesdays of each month. **You MUST SIGN UP** either online at <https://princeofpeace-er.org/signups/> or by contacting the church office at 715-479-9263 (*leaving a message with the date and time you prefer*).

* If you haven't already done so, please return your 2020 Pledge Card. If you don't plan to pledge, please check the box marked "Prefer Not to Pledge" and return the card to us anyway. It helps us to budget and plan for 2021. **Ministry is still going on** at Prince of Peace even though the building is closed for worship and activities. The Weekend Backpack Program is going strong!

* Please sign up to help with the Weekend Backpack Program. Just go to <https://princeofpeace-er.org/signups/> then click on *Weekend Backpack Program* and *View & Signup*. We are feeding 127 children each week through this program plus are feeding an additional 100 children through in-school pantries!

* The Vilas County Health Department continues local 2020 Flu Clinics as follows:

Thursday – October 8 (11 a.m. to 12 Noon) at Conover Community Center

Tuesday – October 13 (9 am. to 10 a.m.) at Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran (Sayner)

Tuesday – October 13 (1 p.m. to 2 p.m.) at Phelps Town Hall

Tuesday – October 20 (1 p.m. to 3 p.m.) at Vilas County Court House, Conference Rooms B, C, and D

PLEASE WEAR MASKS AND OBSERVE SOCIAL DISTANCING!

The cost of the flu shot is \$25 payable by cash or check. They will bill Medicare Part B, Medicaid and some Medicare replacements. There are some restrictions. All clinics are subject to vaccine delivery. Any clinic cancellations will be announced on the radio. Call the Vilas County Public Health Department at (715) 479-3656 with any questions.

* Please check out and subscribe to the Prince of Peace Lutheran YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX-J0LsbtcqzMIjC959hj7Q>). Share it with family and friends on email and through Facebook and other social media.

* DVD's of the previous Sunday's worship are now available at POP! Please contact the church office via telephone (715-479-9263) if you would like one.

* If you would like to drop off food for the Weekend Backpack program, there will be a gray tote outside the main doors of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (*under the portico*) **on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays** between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Please do not drop off expired food or items past their sell-by dates. We are unable to use them. **Please note that you can also drop food off at the American Family Insurance office on Wall Street in Eagle River.**

CURRENT PHASE: 1.5

- Shortened communion worship service in Fellowship Hall on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of the month from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- Digital worship and fellowship available
- Individually scheduled communion available
- Critical staff and volunteers by invitation-only access to building
- All in-person activities suspended and moved to digital format where possible
- Visitors must wear a facemask and may not enter the building



MISSION STATEMENT

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is a community who believes in God's love, knows Jesus as Savior, and is blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Thankful for these gifts, we gather to pray and praise, explore God's Word and its meaning for our lives, strengthen each other in our witness, and serve each other and our neighbors in the world.

VISION STATEMENT

Gathered by Grace ~ Sent to serve.
*Core Values: Spirituality, Community,
Grace, Helping Others, Creativity.*

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www.PrinceofPeace-ER.org