

# Flint River Presbytery Closing Worship

at 826 Liberty Expressway SE

October 16, 2021



***Our closing worship features some of our pastors who are celebrating significant ordination anniversaries this year. During this Pastor Appreciation Month, we give thanks for ALL who serve our congregations and give their very best!***

***The beautiful bulletin art, featuring the large window and communion table in our former conference room, was created by Dianna Bower, a 6th grader at Sherwood Christian Academy. In addition to her work with watercolors, she is an avid maker of soaps and jewelry, an enthusiastic conversationalist on all topics, and an expert in navigating YouTube. She lives in Albany with the older version of herself, Sommer (who is also her mother), her annoying brother Cade, her goofy father Joshua, and her beloved cat Black Beauty.***

**\*denotes “please stand as able”**

**\*Call to Worship (based on Psalm 90)**

**Sommer Bower, First (Americus)**

One: Lord, *You* have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**All: Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

One: For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past,  
or like a watch in the night.

**All: You sweep them away; they are like a dream,  
like grass that is renewed in the morning;  
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;  
in the evening it fades and withers.**

One: So teach us to count our days  
that we may gain a wise heart.

**All: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.  
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and prosper for us the work of our hands—  
O prosper the work of our hands!**

**\*Hymn “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”**

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible, hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.  
To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.  
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

**Call to Prayer and Unison Prayer of Confession**

**Joshua Bower, First (Albany)**

**Holy One,**

**You sent Jesus Christ into the world,  
casting parables into crowds,  
unleashing love, and  
unbinding the broken.**

**You come among us still,  
but we are not always interested  
nor are we paying attention.**

**Our interest is captured instead by the  
empty but alluring sheen of wealth and security.  
Our attention is fixed on  
bottom lines, net incomes, and tangible results.**

**We confess our obvious lack of trust.  
(Silence)**

**We confess our dogged lack of hope.  
(Silence)**

**We confess our persistent lack of imagination.  
(Silence)**

**Encourage us, empower us, and equip us  
that we may be glad witnesses to Your persistence providence and Your shining grace.  
(Silence) AMEN**

Assurance of Pardon and **Sung Response “Come and Fill our Hearts”**

Come and fill our hearts with your peace,  
You alone, O Lord, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia.

Scripture and Sermon

**Debra Tregaskis, Executive Presbyter**

**\*Hymn “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”**

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.

Brief History of the Building

**Virgil Marshall, Carver Heights**

\*Litany of Praise for the Use of This Building

**Sandy Monroe, Honorably Retired**

One: Eternal God, whom the highest heaven cannot contain, much less building made by human hands, hear us as we pray:

**All: For the church universal of which this building has been a symbol.**

One: Hear us as we pray:

**All: We give thanks for this space, this building and these walls where many have been equipped to go to serve You in the world.**

One: Hear us as we pray:

**All: For all the saints in times past and present who have met in this place, offering prayers and seeking Your will.**

One: Hear us as we pray:

**All: We mark this change as we mark all change: reiterating the promise that You are our Rock and our Refuge, our ever-present help in times of trouble. You, who are the Lord of heaven and earth, do not live in shrines made by human hands.**

One: It is in God that we live and move and have our being.  
Let us trust God's goodness and grace.

**All: AMEN**

**Declaration and Action of Unbinding**

**Patti Kauffmann, Presbytery Moderator**

**"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"**

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers.  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes; our mutual burdens bear.  
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;  
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;  
And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

**Declaration of Building Vacation**

**Patti Kauffmann, Presbytery Moderator**

**Final Blessing and Adjournment**

**Patti Kauffmann, Presbytery Moderator**