

“FRONT PORCH WORSHIP”
First United Methodist Church, Cheraw, SC
Sunday July 19, 2020, 9:00am
Bring your chairs. Wear a mask. Love with Social Distance

ENTRANCE

Gathering of the People in Front of the Church
 Welcome and Greeting. Pastor Phil Thrailkill, Interim Minister
 Silence Before the Lord

+Trinitarian Greeting, Mark 12:29-31
 As the friends of God, let us bless the Lord:
Blessed be God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Jesus announced, “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord;
and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.
 The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’
There is no other commandment greater than these.”

+Mutual Blessing and Prayer
 The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray....

Testimonies to God’s Grace.. . . . All Have a Voice!
 Where have I seen God’s grace and kindness this week?

United Methodist Teaching: “Historic Examination for Admission into Full Connection”..... Page 3

“These are the questions that every Methodist preacher from the beginning has been required to answer upon becoming a full member of the Annual Conference. They were formulated by John Wesley and have been little changed through the years” (*Book of Discipline 2016: 270*).

PROCLAMATION AND PRAISE

Sermon Lesson: “God Gives the Increase”..... 1 Corinthians 3:5-17
 Sermon: “What Good Are Ministers?”. Pastor Phil Thrailkill, Interim Minister

RESPONSES TO THE WORD

Silence with the Word of God
 +Prayers of the People
 Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**
 The Renewal of Ordination Vows and Celebration of an Appointment. Page 4
 +Dismissal with Blessing
 Offering. Theodore Burns: Usher

THE RENEWAL OF ORDINATION VOWS AS AN ELDER

Do you trust that you are called by God to the life and work of an elder?
I do so trust.

Do you believe in the Triune God, and confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?
I do so believe and confess.

Are you persuaded that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments contain all things necessary for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, and are the unique and authoritative standard for the Church’s faith and life?
I am so persuaded, by God’s grace.

Will you be faithful in prayer, in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures, and with the help of the Holy Spirit continually rekindle the gift of God that is in you?
I will, with the help of God.

Will you be a steadfast disciple of Christ, so that your life may be fashioned by the gospel, and provide a faithful example for all God’s people?
I will, with the help of God.

In covenant with other elders, will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church, accepting its order, liturgy, doctrine, and discipline, defending it against all doctrines contrary to God’s Holy Word, and accepting the authority of those who are appointed to supervise your ministry?
I will, with the help of God.

May God, who has given you the will to do these things, give you grace to perform them that the work begun in you may be brought to perfection. Amen.

(Taken from *The United Methodist Book of Worship, 674-676*.)

THE CELEBRATION OF AN APPOINTMENT

Introduction:
 Dear friends, today we welcome Pastor Phil who has been appointed to serve as our interim pastor. We believe he is well qualified and has been prayerfully appoint by Bishop Holston.

Pastor Phil, you have been sent to live among us as a bearer of the Word of God; a minister of the Sacraments; and a sustainer of the love, order, and discipleship of the people of God.

Today I reaffirm this commitment in the presence of this congregation.

*Congregation’s Vow
 Brothers and sisters in Christ, as a people committed to participate in the ministries of the Church by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service, will you who celebrate this new beginning support and uphold Pastor Phil in these ministries?”

We reaffirm our commitment to support you with our prayers, presence, gifts, and service.
“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation.”

I CORINTHIANS 3:5-17 "WHAT GOOD ARE MINISTERS?"

Answers 1:13, *Is Christ divided?* No

Admission and Continuance of Full Membership
in the Annual Conference

5 Q + A 1) v.5 TWO QUESTIONS & ANSWER: THE CHURCH'S SERVANT-LEADERS/ PASTORS.
 Servants **What then is Paul?** **And what is Apollos?** Not *who* but *what*? Pastors are servants, not status symbols
 Servants (*diakonoi* = table waiters) *through whom* you believed, Not *in whom*! 4:15 **Leader: servant/evangelist**
 as the Lord assigned to each. No personal credit, God assigns the chores to be done, We are not competitors
 Lk. 17:7-10, Rom. 10:14-27, "How shall they hear?"

6 1 2) vv.6-8 IMAGE 1: AGRICULTURE ANALOGY ON CHURCH LEADERSHIP. Acts 18:1 (Paul), 18:17 (Apollos)
 Farmers a) vv.6-7 The Picture Of A Garden: The Relative Unimportance Of Workers.
 1 I planted, 2 Cor. 9:10, No lone rangers/superstars, Church is a local, organic community
 2 Apollos watered, Advance the work, Apostles as plow boys, water boys: both necessary
 3 but God gave the increase. Ps. 127:1, **Picture No. 1: Church = God's field**
 7 1' So neither is he who plants anything, Fruitless, useless apart from God, proper proportion
 2' nor he who waters, *plant, water* are aorists, *gives* is imperfect (continuing)
 3' but God who gives the increase (is everything). God is source of success, Isaiah 5:1-7
 Real miracle/mystery is fruit/growth! God as life-force

8 b) v.8 Test And Reward: Focus On Individual's Labor. No complacency
 Now the one who plants and the one who waters are equal (i.e. one), Complementary, co-workers
 and each shall receive his own reward according to his own labor. No turf battles, wrong audience
 It is God who finally evaluates, *Testament of Abraham* 13:11-14 on reward

9 Fellow-Workers 3) v.9 ANALOGIES APPLIED TO LEADERS AND THE PEOPLE. No clergy turf battles! **Leader: Fellow-Workers**
 For God's we are, fellow workers (*sunergoi*/ synergists); //v.5, I Thess. 3:2 on Timothy
 Work in progress, The church, leaders and people, belongs to God
 God's (cultivated) field, //vv.6-8, Ex. 15:17, Jer. 1:10. 12:14-16 on these two images
 God's building are you. vv.10-15, //1QS 8.5, 11.7-8 **Picture No. 2: Church = God's building**
 All belongs to God: God's workers, field, building!

10 Builders 2') vv.10-15 IMAGE 2: ARCHITECTURAL ANALOGY ON CHURCH LEADERSHIP.
 a) vv.10-11 The Picture Of A Building And Architect: The Importance Of Quality.
 1 According to the grace (*charis*, gift) of God given to me, Rom. 1:5, 15:8-21, I Cor. 2:1-5, Acts 18:1-8
 like a wise (*sophos*) master builder (*architectos*) I laid a **foundation**. Is. 28:16, **Leader: Architects/builders**
 2 and another man is building upon it. Multiple leaders are necessary
 2' Let each man take care how he builds upon it. Warning against shoddy pastoral work
 11 1' For other **foundation** can no one lay I Cor. 1:7, 23, 2:2
 than that which is laid (i.e. by God) which is Jesus Christ. p.v., 1:23, 2:3; Foundation is Christ crucified
 Solidity of the church is tested

12 1a b) vv.12-15 Test And Reward: Focus On Two Types Of Materials. Ex. 35:30-36:1
 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with: Creator of the church is also its judge, truth revealed
 b gold, silver, precious stones, Temples, Precious quality, Worthy of foundation/ inflammable
 c wood, hay, stubble (reeds), Ordinary homes, cheap, easily available/ flammable
 13 2 the work of each will become manifest; 9:1, Church & leaders examined/ nothing hidden
 3 for the Day will disclose it,
 3' because it will be revealed by fire; Rom. 2:5,16; Amos 5:18
 2' what sort of work each has done, 2 Pt. 3:12, 2 Thess. 1:7-8, , Not punish but reveal

14 1'a the fire will test it. Cataclysm coming! Day of the Lord, 2 Thess. 1:7-8, Mal. 4:1-2a, 2 Pt. 3:7,12
 b If anyone's work survives which he has built, he shall receive a reward. *Testament of Abraham* 13
 15 c If anyone's work shall be burned down, he shall suffer loss (i.e. be fined). See James 3:1 on judgment
 (Though he himself shall be saved, but only as through fire.) Real loss but still saved, Amos 4:11
 Wait for God's judgment, 1 Cor. 4:5, 2 Cor. 5:10, Rom. 2:6-10

16 Q + A 1') vv.16-17 TWO QUESTIONS & ANSWER: THE HOLINESS & VALUE OF COMMUNITY.
 a **Do you not know that you (pl. "you all") are God's temple?** 6:19, *Naos*, **Picture No. 3: Church = inner temple**
 b **and that the Spirit of God dwells in you ("all of you," plural)?** Spirit dwells in Christ's community!
 17 c If any one the temple of God destroys, 6:19-20, Theat/curse of God on division/schism
 c' destroyed he will be by God. How we treat community is how God will treat us
 b For God's temple is holy (i.e. set apart), Mt. 16:18, The church belongs to God! not pastors, not people!
 a' and that temple you (plural) are! Now the *Naos* = inner part, 2 Cor. 6:16, Eph. 2:21, We are where God is working
 Leaders are for the well-being of the church which is finally under God's protection

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Historic Examination for Admission into Full Connection—

The bishop as chief pastor shall engage those seeking to be admitted in serious self-searching and prayer to prepare them for their examination before the conference. At the time of the examination he bishop shall also explain to the conference the historic nature of the following questions and seek to interpret their spirit and intent. The questions are these and any others that may be thought necessary:

1. Have you faith in Christ?
2. Are you going on to perfection?
3. Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?
4. Are you earnestly striving after it?
5. Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and his work?
6. Do you know the General Rules of our Church?
7. Will you keep them?
8. Have you studied the doctrines of The United Methodist Church?
9. After full examination, do you believe that our doctrines are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures?
10. Will you preach and maintain them?
11. Have you studied our form of Church discipline and polity?
12. Do you approve our Church government and polity?
13. Will you support and maintain them?
14. Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?
15. Will you visit from house to house?
16. Will you recommend fasting or abstinence, both by precept and example?
17. Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God?
18. Are you in debt so as to embarrass you in your work?
19. Will you observe the following directions?
 - a) Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never trifle away time; neither spend any more time at any one place than is strictly necessary.
 - b) Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time. And do not mend our rules, but keep them; not for wrath, but for conscience' sake.