

The Berkeley Springs Presbyterian Church

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Service for the Lord's Day
Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 17, 2021

11:00 am

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
PRELUDE

APPROACH TO THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Minister: Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

People: If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

Minister: If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me; and your right hand shall hold me fast ...

People: If I say: "Surely, the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night, even the darkness is not dark to you."

Minister: The night is as bright as the day.

People: For darkness is as light to you.

***HYMN 722** Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak

PRAYER OF ADORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Wake us up from our sleep, Holy One. Open our eyes to see your vision. Set our ears tingling with your words. Let your Spirit deepen our understanding of you and your work in our lives. Forgive us when we slumber, or, fail to recognize your voice. Guide us. Lighten our path so we may walk in ways that others may see Christ in us. Listen now to our silent confessions ...

Silent Prayer

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Minister: Our God is a God of mercy and of grace. Our God is One who seeks for us. Our God will cross any darkness to bring us light. Our God gives us life anew, again and again.

People: Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Hymn 447

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE (Can stand but please remain in your pew and wave to greet those around you)

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC (In lieu of the postlude)

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

I Corinthians 4: 1-5

pg. 928

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

I Samuel 3: 1-18

pg. 215

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Beginning Again, Again”

Rev. Alexa Smith

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

pg. 17

***GLORIA**

Hymn 583

*Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia!*

THE RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD

THE OFFERING (Please don’t pass the plate or basket – the ushers will come to you)

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

Hymn 606

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PASTORAL PRAYER

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts,

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord,

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

page 35 in Hymnals,

Traditional

***HYMN 720**

Jesus Calls Us

***CHARGE**

***BENEDICTION**

***INSTRUMENTAL AMEN**

Please put your mask back on before you leave your pew.

****congregation stands as able***

We extend Christ’s blessing to all in our church’s worship and programs. If you have any questions or would be interested in joining this church, please, don’t hesitate to speak to the minister or one of the members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Large print bulletins are available upon request.

Happy Birthday to Cindy Slusher and Iris Helmick.

The 3rd Sunday of the month is typically MCEAT Sunday. It is generally just a reminder of one of our missions to help the local food pantry. You may bring canned or boxed foods and they will be delivered to MCEAT during the week. You can bring food anytime during the month, it does not only have to be the 3rd Sunday.

We received \$666 in offerings last week and \$2,441 the week before. To meet the budget for 2021, we need to receive on average \$964 for each of the remaining weeks of the year.

Session met last Sunday and has decided to begin having communion each month. Typically, it will be on the first Sunday but could possibly be a different Sunday depending on the lectionary.

There will be a congregational meeting after church today. This will be to approve the budget and elect new officers.

We will soon be replacing our current directory with a new and updated version. There will be access to viewing it online and also in print. With this new version, we will be able to update addresses, phone numbers, emails, pictures, etc. on an ongoing basis.

Please Consider the Berkeley Springs Presbyterian Church in your will or estate planning

Spiritually stitching what is torn

What the mending trend can teach us about God’s redeeming love

By Donna Frischknecht Jackson | Editor | Presbyterians Today

I hadn’t heard of the “mending” trend until a few months ago. I was skimming the pages of the free newspaper that’s always

shoved into my tiny post office box. Published before the pandemic, its pages teemed with news of church fundraising dinners. From chicken and biscuits to pig roasts—who needs restaurants in rural America when there are churches?

But with social distancing scaling back the number of church dinners, there was room for other announcements, like the one from a local college offering a mending workshop. I wondered, “Do they actually mean mending as in how to sew a button onto a shirt, patch a hole in jeans and darn a sock?” The notion of doing any of these things was foreign to me. I couldn’t remember the last time I took a needle out to repair a piece of clothing. A rip or a missing button were often excuses to throw out the garment and buy new.

Intrigued, I went to register for the workshop only to be shocked to learn it was sold out. My surprise led me to research why mending was becoming so popular. I discovered that the movement to repair what is torn was not necessarily rooted in frugality, but rather out of a growing concern for the environment.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, in 2017, 11 million tons of textile waste ended up in landfills, taking up to 200 years to decompose. The realization of the importance of reusing fabric has even hit the fashion industry, with couture houses, such as Alexander McQueen, sending down the runway in spring 2020 new lines of clothing made of recycled textiles.

With my big toe poking through the hole in my sock, I was inspired to switch gears and begin researching instructional videos on how to do this thing called “darning.” As my eyes watched yarn being threaded onto a needle in a video, my thoughts drifted to a different kind of mending—spiritual.

I mused about what kind of “holy thread” would be needed by a society torn apart by politics, especially as November’s election revealed how ripped we are as a country. What thread would we need to spiritually stitch us back together; perhaps a thread woven with fibers of grace, compassion, empathy and listening?

I then thought about the extra buttons by grandmother had on hand. They were kept in a cookie tin that always disappointed me when, as a young girl in search of a cookie, I would be greeted by buttons instead. But when my rag doll lost a button eye, I was so happy when my grandmother took out that tin and found a replacement. I wasn’t ready to throw my doll away. Yet how many times have I been quick to toss aside a person because I didn’t have a tin full of extra love and patience to mend what was torn between us?

While the lost art of mending is being found by a new generation, do our congregations have the desire or the skills to master spiritual mending? I ask because I know too many sessions that are fraying over issues such as virtual worship or racial justice.

I recently came across a Hebrew phrase used in the Jewish tradition when referring to the act of mending: *tikkun olam*, which means “to repair or improve the world with an act of kindness.” I love the idea of repairing the world by mending, to view something as valuable enough to put it back together and make it useable again.

There’s a passage in Ecclesiastes 3 that tells us everything has a season: “a time to be born, and a time to die;...a time to mourn, and a time to dance.” The writer also tells us that there is “a time to tear, and a time to sew.” It’s time to enter into a new season in which we become skilled at threading our spiritual needles with forgiving, unconditional, inclusive and Spirit-woven thread. It’s time to embrace the art of spiritual mending.