

February 24, 2022



Steeple Views

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Devotional Meditation

Elder, Monica Stevens

February 23, 2022

Holy, Holy, Holy

Psalm 99

Psalm 99 appears three times in the three-year cycle of the Revised Common Lectionary, but I would venture to say that it is not a psalm that comes readily to mind for most people. I want to take a look at it today because it is the psalm for this Sunday's lectionary, and it has some important things to tell us about the nature of God.

The Lord is king: let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!

This psalm is one of several enthronement psalms that proclaim the kingship and sovereignty of God. God sitting on the cherubim-throne is a reference to the ark of the covenant that was kept in the Holy of Holies in the Jerusalem Temple. The ark symbolized God's presence among God's people. God is king not only in Zion (Israel), but also over all the earth. God is holy and has an awe-inspiring and even fear-inspiring presence and power that causes all people to tremble and the earth to quake. Our only proper response is reverence and worship for this holy God.

Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he.

Not only is God a mighty King, God rules with justice, righteousness, and equity for his people. Human rulers are weak and can fall victim to the baser human motivations of greed, lust for power, and self-aggrandizement to the detriment and grief of their people, but these failings are not in the nature of God. God must rule with justice, righteousness, and equity because that is God's nature. Again, the only proper response we can render is to worship and revere our holy God.

Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the Lord, and he answered them. He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statues he gave them; O Lord, our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoing. Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy.

Our God is mighty, holy, and inspires awe and fear. Our God rules over us with righteousness, justice, and equity. But possibly even more astounding, our God hears us when we call out.

Moses, Aaron, and Samuel all interceded on behalf of the people in their care. When they cried out to God, God spoke and answered them. Not only did God hear them in their time of need, but God also forgave his people over and over again. However, we must remember that God's freedom to forgive does not preclude our responsibility to obey God.

It is very appropriate that this psalm appears on Transfiguration Sunday twice in the three-year lectionary cycle. This psalm lifts up God's holiness and the attributes of sovereignty, justice, righteousness, equity, compassion, and forgiveness that flow from God's holiness. When the disciples witness Jesus' transfiguration in the presence of Elijah and Moses, they see the glory of God revealed in the person of Jesus. As we prepare to enter Lent may we remember that in Jesus "all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell" (Col. 1:19 NRSV), so the picture we see of God in Psalm 99, is also a picture of the holiness of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. May this portrait of God in Christ inspire us to greater love and faithfulness. Holy, holy, holy is our God.

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The Church is Open for In-Person Worship Service!

The safety of our congregation and community are our highest priority. In light of increasing infections due to the OMICRON variant and in order to follow state and local guidelines and CDC recommendations, we strongly recommend that everyone, regardless of vaccination status, wear a face covering that covers your nose and mouth while anywhere inside the church and sanctuary.

The church office will open for limited appointments. Please call to schedule. Please enter at the narthex for Sunday worship and during the week use the back door at the portico.



Please join us for the Last Sunday after the Epiphany either **in person** or via **Facebook live** at 10:00 AM

Sermon by Elder Kym Wiederholt
Glory to Great to Behold

Based on Luke 9:28-43a and Exodus 34:29-35



2 Peter Marshall
6 Jerry Wood
9 Tyler Price
18 Steve Edgerton

Upcoming Events

The Session will meet Monday, February 28 at 7:00 pm in the session room.

Ash Wednesday begins our Lenten journey culminating in Easter. We will mark this day with a **devotional service in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, March 2 at NOON**. Join us for a light lunch of soup, bread and dessert, with a devotion **by Elder Monica Stevens** for the imposition of ashes as a symbol of humility and grief.

Plans are underway for **confirmation class** to take place this Spring. If your child (8th grade or older) has not been through confirmation and would like to take part, please contact Sam (sam@peakspresbytery.org). For those already signed up, more details will be coming soon!

Prayer Requests

These members and friends of the congregation need our prayers:

PRAYER CONCERNS

Anne Peterson Family, Rob & Shanna Francisco-King Family, Georgette Bishop, Ernest and Marilyn Bremner (S. Ford), Mike Boswell, Catherine Bridges, Jim Brunt (N. Davis' brother), Tommy Cobb (M. Dunn), Judy Epperly (Nancy Baker), Daniel Handy, Leonard Kelley (Monica Stevens' brother), Betty Carol Lamm, Mary Manning, Laura Stevens Milton, Troy Spencer (Pam Rakes' father), Scott Stevens (M. Stevens), Bruce Thomas (M. Stevens), Carl Utley, Tammy Tucker Wardinski (Susan Pilson), persecuted Christians and all troops in defense of freedom throughout the world.



Please submit prayer requests to Rita in the church office, [\(276\) 632-3431](tel:2766323431), office@fpcmartinsvilleVA.org.

Congregational Care and Fellowship

If you are in need of prayer, a meal, transportation, etc...due to a death in the family or the birth of a baby, please reach out to the Congregational Care and Fellowship committee by contacting Pearl Minter at [276 340-3476](tel:2763403476).

Grace Network Donations

The 1st quarter 2022 food donation item is **Baking Mix (small) or Flour**



Please consider donating extra when you are able to get out and about as your donations will become more important than ever.

Hygiene Items - We are always in need of these items!

**Items may be brought to church but please call the office to make sure Rita is there. Alternatively, you may drop off at Grace Network, Monday - Friday, 9-2 PM*



Steeple Views Reminder

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARTINSVILLE, VA

Steeple Views is published weekly on Thursdays. **DEADLINE** for submission of articles is Tuesday evening.

If you have information you want included in Steeple Views, **PLEASE SEND TO:** fpcsteepleviews@gmail.com. If you send to another email address, the information may get lost and subsequently not included in the newsletter.

We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Sharon Kirby, Editor

Presbytery of the Peaks

For updates and announcements, please click on the link below or copy and paste into your web browser:

https://www.peakspresbytery.org/images/2020_Peaks_Postings/PP_Aug18_2020.pdf

Our Mission

Share God's Love, Embrace Our Neighbors, Nurture Each Other

Printed copies of Steeple Views are available at church. Current and back issues are also on our website:

www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/page.cfm/topic/newsletter

Useful Links

FPC website:

www.firstpresbyterianmartinsville.org/ or www.fpcmartinsvilleVA.org/

FPC online directory: members.instantchurchdirectory.com/

FPC Facebook page: www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA

Presbytery of the Peaks: www.peakspresbytery.org/

Presbyterian Church (USA): www.pcusa.org/

Daily Bible Readings: www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/

Church Office Phone: [276-632-3431](tel:276-632-3431)

Our mailing address is:

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THE SESSION

Clerk: Nancy Baker

Treasurer: Henry Moore

Class of 2022

Brooke Cundiff: Mission/Outreach

Pamela Rakes: Stewardship and Communication

Betty Hudson: Christian Education

Class of 2023

Billy Kirby: Administration

Class of 2024

Pearl Minter: Congregational Care and Fellowship

Neil Tatum: Facilities

Liz Ferrell: Worship

TRUSTEES

2022: Joan Montgomery, Ashby Pritchett

2023: Sandra Ford, Joe DeVault

2024: Duke Ferrell, Milt Davis

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