



First Presbyterian Church
of Metuchen

Where God's Love Welcomes All



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

VISION

To be an inclusive, connected, and loving community mobilized to serve Jesus Christ.

MISSION

We are a welcoming and diverse congregation that serves God by improving the spiritual, mental and physical well-being of people in our community and beyond through worship, education, fellowship, music, and mission outreach.

September 13, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

This worship service is being media cast on Facebook Live.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840

September 13, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.
15th Sunday after Pentecost – Rally Day

Senior Pastor and Head of Staff: Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry
Associate Pastor: Rev. Justin D. Karmann
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Robert A. Beringer
Minister of Music: Brenda Day

ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP THE LIVING GOD

GATHERING

PRELUDE – “Prelude in C Major”

Organ: Brenda Day

J. S. Bach

WELCOME/TIDINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP – Isaiah 49:8-10

Leader: Thus, says the Lord: In a time of favor I have answered you; on a day of salvation I have helped you; I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages; saying to the prisoners, “Come out,” to those who are in darkness, “Show yourselves.”

People: **They shall feed along the ways, on all the bare heights shall be their pastures; they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down, for he who has pity on them, will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them.**

HYMN #610 – “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (verses 1, 4, 5)

Azmon

1. **O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer’s praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God’s grace!**
4. **My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.**
5. **To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.**

*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION – *Unison* Rev. Justin D. Karmann
God of mercy remove the desire of disdain; take from us the impulse to cast away what you have created. Bring humility where there was arrogance; find in us a new voice. Let us lift the fallen, cast no stone, and stand in the place of those who would be judged. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Nancy Leardi

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING – 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Kylie Trolaro

This is the Word of the Lord . . . Thanks be to God

SOLO – “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Baritone: Matthew LaPine

arr. Mark Hayes

Copyright © 1967 OCP Publications. Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI license numbers 20354270 and 20397330.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING – Matthew 7:1-5

This is the Word of the Lord . . . Thanks be to God

SERMON – “Mrs. Turpin’s Game”

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

SETTLING OF THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – Confession of 1967 (9.43,44)

Rev. Karmann

In each time and place there are particular problems and crisis through which God calls the church to act. The church, guided by the Spirit, humbles by its own complicity and instructed by all attainable knowledge, seeks to discern the will of God and learn how to obey in these concrete situations.

God has created all people of the earth to be a universal family. In God’s reconciling love he overcomes the barriers between [people] and breaks down every form of discrimination based on racial or ethnic difference, real or imaginary.

HYMN #724 – “O Jesus, I Have Promised” (verses 1, 3)

Angel’s Story

- 1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end; be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend; I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side, nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.**
- 3. O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still, above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will; O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control; O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.**

ELDER’S PRAYER AND THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and let us not fall into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

HYMN #12 – “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” (verses 1, 4)

St. Denio

1. **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.**
4. **Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light. Thine angels adore thee,
all veiling their sight. All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE – “The God, We Praise Thee”

Johann Walther

The flowers in the Sanctuary are in loving memory of Arthur and Phyllis Harmon from their grandchildren, Justin, Tara, Adam, Ryan, Joe, Chelsea, Cody, Rebecca, Abbey, and Andrew; and also given in honor of the Sanctuary and Sacraments Committee as we look forward with hope and faith to a new church calendar year.

We welcome Matthew LaPine, who is participating in our worship service this morning. Matthew J. LaPine is an active performer, educator, conductor, and composer in central New Jersey. He is a graduate of Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ (M.M. and B.M.). Mr. LaPine is the Founder and Artistic Director of Rise Up Chorus, a non-profit community chorus organization whose purpose is to enrich lives through human interaction using music as our commonality. He is Choral Director at Bernards High School, where his choral ensembles have received national acclaim and have performed in various locations along the East Coast, and he is the Director of Camerata, an ensemble for young men in grades 7-12 with changing or changed voices, with the New Jersey Youth Chorus. Mr. LaPine's ensembles have performed in such prestigious locations as The White House (Washington, D.C.), Carnegie Hall (NYC), St. Louis Cathedral (New Orleans, LA), Dom zu Salzburg (Salzburg, Austria) as well as with such ensembles as the Canadian Brass, and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra as well as with popular artists such as Barry Manilow, Colby Collet, and Tori Kelly.

First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen

Sunday School Teachers for Program Year 2020- 2021

Christian Education Director: Nancy Leardi
 Opening welcome: Brenda Day & Emily Almeida
 Christian Ed. Youth Assistants: Ethan Kozo
 Christian Education Commission Chair: Jennifer Thompson

GRADE	TEACHERS	ASSISTANTS
Nursery	Lilly Almeida Grace Fong Nicole Trolaro Dativa Agona	Dara Ejang Anna Davis
2 Year Old's	Maya Pennix Katie Gray Kira Aldinger Claire Schleck	
3- & 4-Year Old's	Angie Brown Kat Davis Holly Distefano	Laureen Distefano
Kindergarten – 1 st grade	Fred Blake Emily Almeida Betty Bradley	Veronica Lijeron Max Blake
2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th Grades	Marni Yannaccone Bridget Sanger Kelsee Young	Nicole Parisi Caitlyn Sanger
5 th through 6 th Grades	Nancy Kipnis Charles Hedrick Irene Morris-Nann	
Confirmation Class (7- 8 th Grade)	Rev. Justin Karmann	
Senior Highs	Aubert Pongoh	
	Sunday School Substitutes	
Maggy Cook	Jennifer O'Neill	Wally Cook
Mike Leardi	Belinda Coronado (Lijeron)	Andrene Pennix
Victoria Pennix	Julie Bourne	Robyn Smith
Cyndi Strathman	Jennifer Thompson	Jim Thompson
Carla Trolaro	Brian Jeney	Laura Fischer
Ellen Ryder		

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

(New Revised Standard Version)

I Corinthians 4:1-5

¹Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. ²Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. ³But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. I do not even judge myself. ⁴I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive commendation from God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

(New Revised Standard Version)

Matthew 7:1-5

¹ "Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. ²For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. ³Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye.

The New Revised Standard Version, copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

OUR WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

The First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen, NJ has adopted a policy that is in compliance with the enactment of the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) agreeing that a member has the right to have his/her health and personal information kept private and secure. **This means that an individual must give permission to have his/her name publicly shared with the congregation. PLEASE CALL CHURCH OFFICE – 732-491-2300 to add a person to the prayer list.** Persons requested to be on the prayer list will remain for one month and then be removed. If you wish to have a loved one on the prayer list for a longer time, please contact Merry Matlock in the Church Office.

Jackson Alcantara (*grandson of Lori Nielsen*)
*Lorraine Bachman
Mary Ann Balieczyk (*friend of Dawn Adam*)
Alex Bertelsen (*Agnes' grandson*)
Russ Bertelsen and children (*Amy's brother*)
Betty
Doug Bilgrav
George Blomn (*Nancy Blomn-Kipnis' father*)
Jessica Blomn (*Nancy Blomn-Kipnis' sister*)
Joe Blomn (*Nancy Blomn-Kipnis' uncle in Arizona*)
Jessica Brockway (*friend of Carolyn Perez & Deb Teall*)
Thomas Bryant (*father of Laura Fischer*)
Barbara Cabrera
Todd Chete (*1st-Cousin of Dawn Adam*)
Lucy Aileen Corbalis (*mother of Niall Corbalis*)
Lisa De La Fuente (*friend of the Kozo/Mollison family*)
Cliff Dunham (*Susan's husband*)
Ken Eckert
Sylvia Elphick (*mother of Kelly Rosko*)
*Ruth Endicott
Lane Gibson (*former member and friend of Bill Nann*)
Tim Good (*son of Tom Good*)
Joseph Hale (*son of Matt and Laura*)
Kim Hale (*sister of Karen Kowalski*)
Pete Hefferon (*member of the Garry family*)
Tim Henry
Estelle Huggar (*sister of Jane Milone*)
David Jewett (*cousin-in-law of Ruth Knoll*)
*Brad Keller
*Aneke Sorongan Kembau

Annie Knoll (*granddaughter of Ruth Knoll*)
*Ruth Knoll
Jed Koball (*brother of Heather Koball*), his wife,
Jenny Valles-Koball, and their son, Thiago Koball
John (*friend of Merry Matlock*)
John Krauss (*brother-in-law of Susan Kozo*)
*Joan Krauszer
Liz Lee (*sister-in-law of Larrie Servino*)
CPL Edward Leitner
Susanne Lukenda (*mother of Martha Silady*)
Elaine Luther (*mother Jennifer Thompson*)
Judy Orr (*sister of Rob Orr*)
*Andre Pangkerego
*Joanne Raison
Sandy Rasmussen (*friend of Amy Bertelsen-Robles*)
Yehuda Rosenstock (*friend of Ed and Jane Meyer*)
Dave Rust (*brother of Mary Armeli*)
*Deb Sorensen
Michael Starr (*friend of Gil Kutcher*)
*Betty Steinbeck
*Betty Sussick
Dear friend of Sue and Ken VanDerSluis
Lynn Hendricks Wong
William Riley Woodard (*friend of Susan Short*)
*Doris Younken
*members of the church
Names highlighted in boldface recently added.

FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

MSgt. David Hansen, USAF (*son of Elaine Hansen*)
EM3 Cody Harmon, U.S. Navy, U.S.S. John Finn (*Sue Harmon's nephew*)
CPL Edward Leitner, U.S. Marines, Albany, GA (*Sue Harmon's cousin*)
MC3 Kevin Leitner, USS Iwo Jima (*Sue Harmon's cousin*)
Captain Matthew McQueeney, USAF Pilot, deployed to the Middle East (*son/stepson of Amy & Pete Bellisano*)
***Andre Pangkerego**, U.S. Navy – U.S.S. Philippine Sea. (*son of Meity Peleh*)
***1LT Bradley Shaver**, U. S. Army – Ft. Riley, Kansas. (*brother/son of Greg and Julie Walton Shaver*)
Mason Weingarten, Coast Guard – First Class (*Bill & Susan Marquard's grandnephew*)

PRAYERS OF COMFORT for June Keehler and her family for the loss of her aunt, Gladys Erbe, who died this past week. Long-time member Robert "Bob" Wesley Hucke Jr. (age 90) died this past May 12 at his son's home in Annandale, NJ. We extend our condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the Keehler and Hucke families.

First Presbyterian Church
270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ
September 13, 2020 Son-Day Paper

Church Office: 732-491-2300
Church Website: www.fpcweb.org
<http://www.facebook.com/FPCMetuchen>

THIS WEEK...

Check out www.fpcweb.org and our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/FPCMetuchen> for upcoming events.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY TO FRIDAY 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Confirmation Class – Soc. Ctr. Dining Room . . . 8:30 a.m.
Worship Service – Sanctuary 9:30 a.m.
Virtual Sunday School - Rally Day 10:30 a.m.
Virtual Coffee Chat – By ZOOM 11:00 a.m.
Virtual Indonesian Fellowship Worship Noon

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Call Church Office to make reservations for the
September 20th Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.
(socially-distanced space for up to 50 people per service.)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Songs & Games: Ages 4 to 2nd Grade – Hale Park
• Music & Games – Hale Park. 4:00 to 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Pastor's Study – By Zoom 4:00 p.m.
Youth Group in Social Center field/building
• Junior High 5:00 p.m.
• Junior High Dinner 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.
• Senior High Dinner. 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.
• Senior High 7:00 to 8:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Concord Ringers – Sanctuary 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.
Music and Junior Club (3rd to 6th grades)
• Music – Hale Park 4:45 – 5:00 p.m.
• Junior Club - Hale Park 5:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Covenant Ringers – Sanctuary 7:00 – 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

“In-Person Deadline” for reservations for the Sept. 20th
Worship Service Call by Noon

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Youth Group Car Wash - Church 9:00 a.m.

PASTORAL CARE:

We hope that you will feel free to contact Rev. Justin Karmann at (cell) 609-480-7259 or Rev. Fred Garry at (cell) 315-771-3590, if you or someone you know, needs our support, or is in the hospital. You can usually reach someone at the church office any weekday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. by calling 732-491-2300.

COMING SOON . . .

- Sept. 20 Racial Justice Vigil at 7:00 p.m.
- Sept. 27 Movie Sunday – 9th to 12th Grade @ 9:15 a.m.
- Sept. 29 Personnel Commission Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 4 New Member's Reception
- Oct. 6 Board of Deacons Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 12 Holiday – Columbus Day – Church Office Closed
- Oct. 13 Unicameral Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Treasurer's Two Cents

Offerings & Gifts Received September 6

Pledge	\$ 9,001
Non-Pledge	\$ 551
Special Funds	\$ 965

TOTAL: \$10,517

Other receipts: \$755
(flowers, parking)

Thank you everyone for your continued

Ways to give to First Presbyterian Church



GivePlus Text: Text
732-479-8245

with the amount you want to donate, to make one-time or recurring contributions.



Mobile App Giving:

Search your app store for "GivePlus Church" and download the GivePlus app to make one-time or recurring contributions.



Online Giving: Visit
www.fpcweb.org

to set up and manage your one-time and recurring gifts.

Why eGiving?

eGiving is an easy and secure way to make contributions. It helps FPC by reducing workload on the staff. And you can set recurring donations, so even if you can't attend, you can still make a gift, which provides FPC financial stability. For information, please visit the church office or (732) 491-2300. Or scan the QR code below with your smart phone to donate.





Catch up with church friends! We'd love to see your faces once again! Interested in joining this virtual chat? Pete Bellisano will be hosting this virtual chat.

If you are interested in joining this virtual chat, and if you already have the Zoom app, join us using the following Meeting ID, and when prompted, enter the passcode, for a secure Zoom call.

Meeting ID: 841 1938 4822 Passcode: 392475

You may also click on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84119384822?pwd=Y2l6aEVoakJGaXRsUHI0T0tyNzhRdz09>



Brenda Arnold Day MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Completed applications are due TODAY. Download a form from the church website and drop off at the Church Office mailbox. This is the LAST CALL to any eligible youth entering 2nd through 12th Grade interested in music.

An award of up to \$500 awaits the recipient which may be used towards musical instrument lessons, vocal instruction, or attend an accredited music camp. The recipient will be announced on September 27th.

If you have any questions, please contact either:

Sandy Slobodien sandy.slobodien@bhhsnj.com
Amy Bellisano amybell@optonline.net



CONFIRMATION CLASS

Understanding Your Faith and Your Church

TODAY @ 8:30 a.m.

In the Social Center Dining Room

An exciting moment is taking place for our Confirmation class. Beginning this Fall, the class will consist of both 7th and 8th graders and will transition from a one-year program to a two-year Confirmation experience. We invite you and your family to come to the launch of our Confirmation Class.

The 2020-2021 program year will focus on their life of faith, meeting once a month on Sunday mornings to experience community and faith together. The 2021-2022 program year will pivot towards the traditional Confirmation experience with weekly class sessions learning about their faith.

Partner with us in prayer as we cultivate the faith of our church's next generation.

Feel free to contact either one of us if you have questions or would like to confirm you and your child's attendance:

Nancy Leardi nleardi@fpcweb.org
Rev. Justin Karmann jkarmann@fpcweb.org

First Presbyterian Church
270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ
September 13, 2020 Son-Day Paper

Church Office: 732-491-2300
Church Website: www.fpcweb.org
<http://www.facebook.com/FPCMetuchen>



TODAY
10:30 a.m.
On Facebook LIVE



FAITH AT HOME KITS

Mrs. Day and Mrs. Leardi will be welcoming the children on Facebook LIVE. Immediately following will be Zoom classrooms for preschool to middle school groupings. The Zoom classes will be just 20 minutes, designed to give the kids an opportunity to see their friends and discover God in some new and exciting ways. Please partner with us as we adjust to a new normal in engaging our children to grow in their faith.



FAITH AT HOME KITS FOR VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL!

When you sign up for our Virtual Sunday School, the Christian Education office has prepared kits containing activities and crafts that you will need in your Zoom classes. They will be available for pick up beginning Sept. 8 in the Social Center Foyer by the Church Office.

JOIN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL FACEBOOK GROUP!

Updates and Zoom links will be posted on the FPC Facebook Sunday School Group page. Join the group by clicking on the link - FPC SS Page Sign Up – so you don't miss out on all the exciting things happening with our Children's Sunday School Program.

REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN NOW!

Register your children for Sunday School and other programs by clicking on the online form or downloading a form from our website and submitting to us.

Questions? Contact Nancy Leardi at 732.491.2264.



Calling all Jubilee Choir and First Friday Friends (Kids 4 years to 2nd Grade) Tuesday, September 15th 4:00-4:30 p.m.* Hale Park on the side of the Church Join Us for Songs and Games

Mrs. Day and Mrs. Leardi will be welcoming back our kids 4 years through 2nd Grade. We are embracing our new normal and thrilled to see our precious children. This get together celebrates our Jubilee Choir and the NEW First Tuesday Club (replacing First Friday).

We are taking every possible precaution and thoughtfully put together songs and games to provide a fun half hour together. Join us!

JUNIOR CLUB (For 3rd to 6th Grade) Thursday, September 17th, Meet in Hale Park 4:45 - 5:00 p.m.* 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. – Hale Park

Junior Club will resume meeting again this month with a slightly modified schedule. We will safely meet in person, with masks and distancing, and meetings will only be 30 minutes each.

*Anyone interested in music with Mrs. Day should arrive at 4:45 p.m. in Hale Park.

Come and join Mrs. Joanne Bedenek and her youth helpers for fellowship, fun and games.

First Presbyterian Church
270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ
September 13, 2020 Son-Day Paper

Church Office: 732-491-2300
Church Website: www.fpcweb.org
<http://www.facebook.com/FPCMetchen>



Did you know that in addition to our weekly Sunday Services e-blast we also offer a Church Family News e-blast twice a month? The Family News e-blast shares up-to-date information on family fellowship, children's ministry events and much more!

If you would like to receive this in your inbox, sign up through the link on our website or contact Nancy Leardi nleardi@fpcweb.org or call (732) 491-2264.

Please note: ACCESS CARDS NEEDED

If you have been issued an access card for the church buildings but currently do not have a need for it, or if you are no longer part of a committee, **we kindly ask that you return it to the church office.** We have run out of cards and a new box costs \$250. We are hoping not to have to make the purchase if cards are returned. If in the future, you require a card, we can then issue you one.

They can be dropped off at the main office or just dropped in the locked mailbox outside the social center. **Thank You!!**

■ From SUE HARMON

First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen

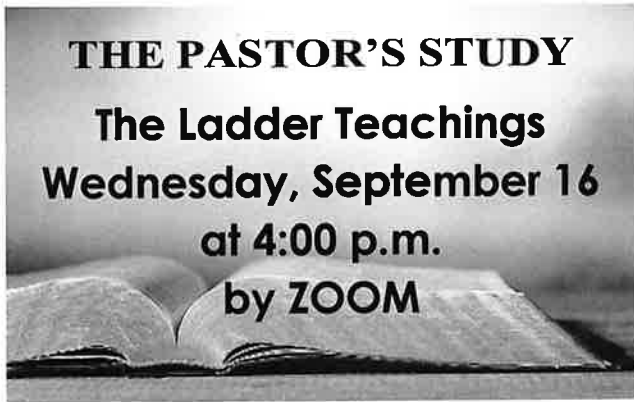
Youth Group

FREE Car Wash fundraiser

**(Weather permitting)
(and by free, we mean: donations accepted)**

September 19th

9:00am-12pm



Join Rev. Garry as he leads a Zoom Bible Study pertaining to the scripture passages on the Ladder Teachings from the Sermon on the Mount for the coming Sunday. During this hour-long study, we will explore the context of the readings as well as the history of interpretation. The link for the Zoom will be on the Church's homepage as well as a post on FPC Facebook. You may also call the church office and we will email the Zoom link.

From Our Heart to God's

A Seven Part Study on the Ladder Teachings from the Sermon on the Mount

Rev. Garry will continue with the sermon study on the Ladder Teachings from the Sermon on the Mount this September. To appreciate the Sermon on the Mount as a place of devotion, a quick guide would be to consider that there are five parts to the Sermon: The Beatitudes

- The Antitheticals
- The Disciplines
- The Ladder
- The Imperatives

Each section is a collection of Jesus' teaching in a very specific design, and in a very intentional order. The Beatitudes are more than a list of blessings. There are blessings of emptying; blessings of filling; and then, blessings in relation to others. It is as if there is an inward journey and then an outward one.

In the Ladder section, there is a similar pattern. Three teachings within the soul; a teaching about time; and then three teachings beyond the soul. Like a step on a ladder going higher and higher – bidding to look beyond ourselves and into considering the attending love of God.

The Heart's Treasure
July 19th

The Eye's Health
July 26th

Soul's Devotion
August 2nd

Tomorrow and Worry
September 6th

Judging Others
September 13th

Piety and Religion
September 20th

God's Gifts in Heaven
September 27th

One way of understanding this type of upward progression is to recognize that such was the very structure of an ancient city. Perhaps the easiest and best example is ancient Athens. At ground level you have the Agora, a place of common life; then there is the Areopagus which sits above the Agora and is a place of justice; and finally, you rise above to the Acropolis or temple mount. The topography is also a world view. In the ladder section of the Sermon on the Mount we have a similar type of progression in the last four teachings. The cares of the everyday (Agora) lead to matters of justice (Areopagus) and this leads to the apex or pearl (Acropolis/temple).

The Heart's Treasure

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The Eye's Health

"The eye is the lamp of the body.

So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness.

If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!"

The Soul's Devotion

"No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

Tomorrow and Worry

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing?

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or

'What will we drink?' or

'What will we wear?'

For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

But strive first for the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."

Judging Others

"Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get.

Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye?

Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye."

Piety and Religion

"Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you."

God's Gifts in Heaven

"Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"