

Our Service of Worship for July 4, 2021
THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

Westwood First Presbyterian Church

Cincinnati, OH

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Meditation on ‘My Country ‘Tis of Thee’”—Janet Linker

During the Prelude, we invite you to take a moment to prepare for worship.

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

Hymn: “God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand” *

Kristi Reed, soprano and Travis Pearce, tenor

A Time of Confession

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings: *Jeremiah 28:5-9; Matthew 10:34-42* *

Sermon: “IN-dependence Day”—Rev. Jerry Grigsby

A Time of Offering

Special Music: ““Battle Hymn of the Republic”—arr. Wilhousky

Kristi Reed, soprano and Travis Pearce, tenor

Pastoral 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 lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn: “America, The Beautiful” * (Please join in singing verses 1, 3, 4)

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: “La Rejouissance” and “Rondeau”—Handel/Mouret

* The words to the hymns and readings are included with the order of worship.

Rev. Jerry Grigsby

Guest Preacher

Heather MacPhail

Organist/Director of Music Ministries

Diane Heilmann

Lay Worship Leader

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

1. God of the ages, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
Our grateful songs before thy throne arise.
2. From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
Thy true religion in our hearts increase;
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.
3. Refresh thy people on their toilsome way;
Lead us from night to never-ending day;
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

America the Beautiful

1. Oh, beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.
2. Oh, beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness, And every gain divine.
3. Oh, beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

First Reading: Jeremiah 28:5-9

⁵ Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord; ⁶ and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles.

⁷ But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸ The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹ As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet."

Matthew 10:34-42—Not Peace, but a Sword

³⁴ "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; ³⁶ and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

⁴⁰ “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

Moment for Meditation – from our Founding Fathers

“God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the Gift of God?” ~Thomas Jefferson

“While we are zealously performing the duties of good citizens and soldiers, we certainly ought not to be inattentive to the higher duties of religion. To the distinguished character of Patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian.” ~George Washington

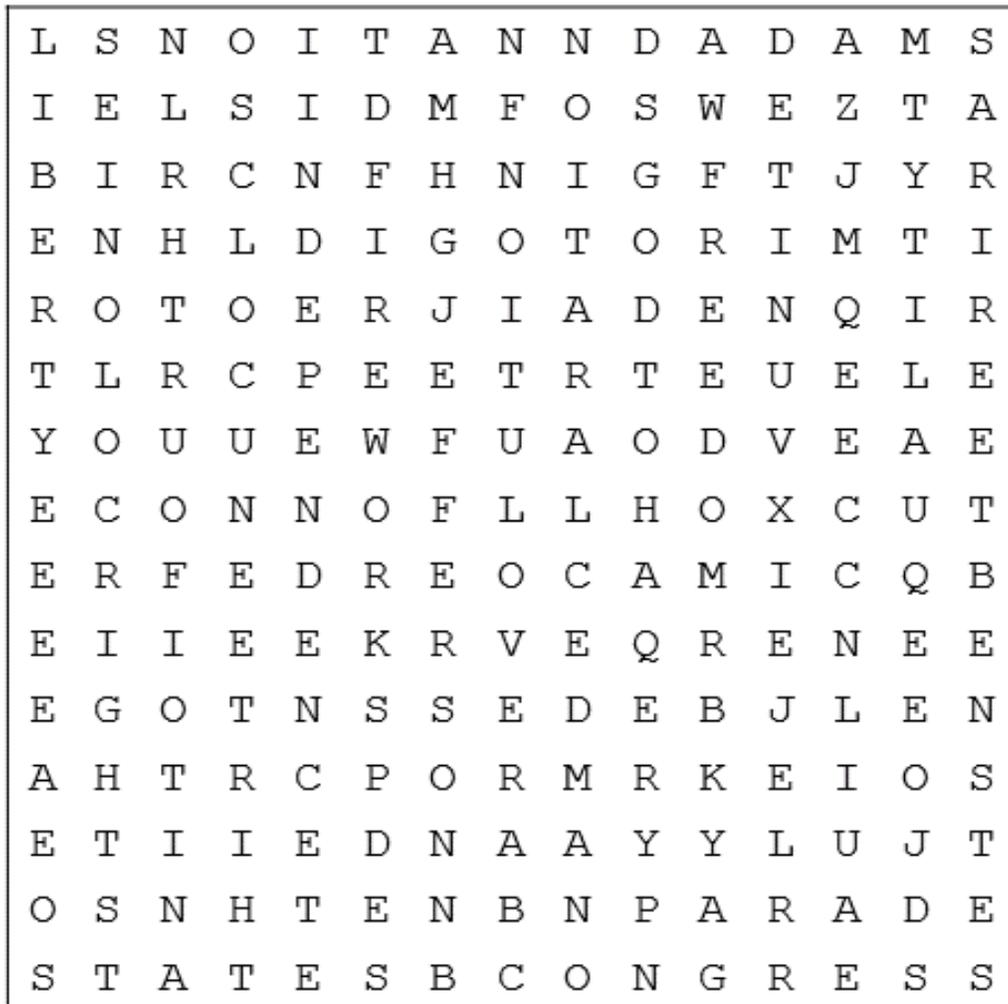
“When we view the blessings with which our country has been favored, those which we now enjoy, and the means which we possess of handing them down unimpaired to our latest posterity, our attention is irresistibly drawn to the source from whence they flow. Let us then, unite in offering our most grateful acknowledgments for these blessings to the Divine Author of All Good.” ~James Monroe





Independence Day

July 4th



ADAMS
AMERICA
BARBECUE
COLONIES
CONGRESS
DECLARATION
EQUALITY
FIREWORKS

FOURTH
FREEDOM
HOTDOGS
INDEPENDENCE
JEFFERSON
JULY
LIBERTY
NATION

PARADE
REVOLUTION
RIGHTS
STATES
THIRTEEN
UNITED

