

POMPTON REFORMED CHURCH

Our Vision: A world where all experience and share the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

February 17, 2019

(*Please stand if you are able)

11:00 am

... THE APPROACH TO GOD...

Prelude

Greeting/Prayer

Gathering Song #41 (Green)

"He Is Exalted"

Call to Worship

The poor, and those in solidarity with them – ***God is on your side.***

Those who mourn and feel grief about the state of the world – ***God is on your side.***

The non-violent, gentle and humble – ***God is on your side.***

Those who hunger and thirst for the common good – ***God is on your side.***

The merciful and compassionate – ***God is on your side.***

Those characterized by sincerity, kindness and generosity – ***God is on your side.***

Those who work for peace and reconciliation – ***God is on your side.***

Those who keep seeking justice – ***God is on your side.***

Those who stand for justice and truth as the prophets did, who refuse to be quiet even when slandered, misrepresented, threatened, imprisoned or harmed – ***God is on your side!***

As we look to the east and look to the west, ***God is always on our side, let us worship God.***

***Opening Hymn #557 (Blue)**

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

Responsive Prayer of Confession

God of life and of truth, Your Son invites us to see the world through your eyes and we find ourselves disoriented:

You bless the poor, You bless the meek, You bless the pure in heart. You turn our world and its values upside down.

We have signed on to follow your Son but this is strange territory. It doesn't look anything like the life we have been taught to yearn for, to work for, to believe will bring us happiness.

Yet, you know the despair that besets so many of our young people who fear that their future has been sabotaged by our greed and carelessness. You hear the cries of those who have traded their souls for power and money and now have emptiness as a friend. You see those who are caught in lives that lead only to weariness and anxiety. Set us at Jesus' feet so, we can learn to judge our lives differently. Awaken in us that hunger and thirst for you which will lead us to your will and your peace. Open our eyes to see your unexpected blessings. Open our hearts to welcome you when you come to us in strange ways. Then make us into a community of blessedness that beckons this neighborhood into your joy.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus who blesses us with your living presence and fills our lives with your life-changing truth.

Choral Response #730 (Blue)*"People Need the Lord"***God's Law for Grateful Living**

Living into the blessings and challenges of the Beatitudes requires great strength and courage. We can only reach this goal by grounding ourselves, as a community, in prayer. As we come before God together, I invite you into the Beatitudes: into their surprising blessings, and their bold proclamation of the Kingdom. From the beginning of Christianity, our mothers and fathers in the faith have relied on these seemingly simple words to guide their lives, to help them understand God's will, and to direct them into prayer for and suffering with the world. I will read each phrase and invite you to repeat it. Then I will suggest a focus for a brief time of silent prayer and meditation.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Remember the poor of our world, for whom the kingdom of heaven often seems distant and unattainable.

Silence

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Remember those who are in mourning, who have lost someone or something dear to them. Pray for their comfort.

Silence

Blessed are those who are hungry, for they will be filled

Blessed are those who are hungry, for they will be filled

We pray for the hungry everywhere

Silence

Blessed are you when people hate you and revile you and when they excluded you

Blessed are you when people hate you and revile you and when they excluded you

We pray for all who for whatever reason feel excluded marginalized or defeated. We pray, O God, that your blessings would be made known as we seek to love our neighbors as ourselves and show your love to the poor, the hungry, the grieving, the excluded. Help us be blessed to be a blessing.

Ministry of Music*"Prayer for Peace"*

B. Harlan-St. Francis of Assisi

*"...where there is hatred, let me sow love"***Church Life - Sunday School Students Dismissed****Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings****Offertory**

***Doxology (Insert) "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" (alternate tune)**

***Offering Prayer**

THE WORD OF GOD...

"To Be or Not to Be"
Luke 6:17-26

...OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD...

***Affirmation of Faith**

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

Healing Service

¹⁴ Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.

¹⁶ Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

James 5:14-16 NIV

Prayer Requests received today by card

Other Prayer Requests (prayed for in unison by first name)

John Nelson	Logan Norman	Stephanie	Mary Verduin
Anna Gordon	Donna Winter	Isabel Manfredo	Cheryl Putney
Joyce DeMartino	Nikol & Alanna	Meghan VanderPlaat	Michele Mac Donald
Ed Fischer	Charlie & Kay	Mike Magee	Eleanor Finke
Peter Bankuti	Erika Herz	Peter Butler	Carolyn & Don
David Pope	David Hague	Lillian Moore	Shirley Montanari
Carole Romaine	Lothar Schneider	A child & a grandchild	Russell Cueman
		Joe	Kay Bergin

During the Healing Service worshippers are invited to come forward to request prayers for themselves or loved ones. Until the pastor or healing elder asks privately to receive to the request, elders lay hands upon those who come forward, centering them in God's presence, while elders encircle the sanctuary. At the conclusion of the healing prayer, a blessing with anointing of oil on forehead or hand is offered.

Healing Song #610 (Blue)

"Through the Love of God Our Savior"

Prayers of the People 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn #42 (Green)

** "We Bow Down"

***Benediction**

Postlude

** Denotes a hymn request from the congregation.

Following worship please join us in Fellowship Hall for refreshments.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Worship Leader:	Rev. Kirsty Depree
Liturgist:	Ronnie Schubert
Music Director:	Patricia Kitchell
Organist:	Scott Burzynski
Bell Choir Director:	Janine Maletsky
Ushers:	Jeff Anders, Emil Scarmazzo, Dan Douma, George Buckman, Mark Warner