**October 19, 2025 19th Sunday after Pentecost 11 AM**

Title: Unjust Judge and the Importunate Widow
[Click for larger image view]

Millais, John Everett, 1829-1896. **Unjust Judge and the Importunate Widow** (1864),

from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

**PRELUDE**  “The Lord Worketh Wonders” George Handel

(from *Judas Maccabaeus* oratorio #41)

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**HYMN #759 “**O God, We Bear the Imprint”

1 O God, we bear the imprint of your face: the colors of our skin are your design,  
and what we have of beauty in our race as man or woman, you alone define,  
who stretched a living fabric on our frame and gave to each a language and a name.

2 Where we are torn and pulled apart by hate because our race, our skin is not the same,  
while we are judged unequal by the state and victims made because we own our name,  
humanity reduced to little worth, dishonored is your living face on earth.

3 O God, we share the image of the One whose flesh and blood are ours, whatever skin;  
in Christ's humanity we find our own, and in his family our proper kin:  
Christ is the brother we still crucify, his love the language we must learn, or die.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE**

**RESPONSE: HYMN #581** “Gloria Patri”

Glory be the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen. Amen.

**PEACE**

Let there be peace on earth.

**And let it begin with me.**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**RESPONSIVE READING** Psalm 121 (NRSVUE)

I lift up my eyes to the hills — from where will my help come?🕈  
**My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.🕈

**He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.🕈  
**The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.**

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.🕈  
**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in  
    from this time on and forevermore.**

**FIRST READING** Genesis 32:22-31 (NRSVUE)

22The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. 24 Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. 25When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. 26Then he said, “Let me go, for the day is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” 27So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” 28Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed.” 29Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. 30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved.” 31 The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SECOND READING** Luke 18:1-8 (NRSVUE)

1 Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. 2 He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. 3In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my accuser.’ 4 For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’ ” 6 And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? 8 I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

**SERMON**  “Justice and Faith” Jeff Courter

**HYMN #749** “Come! Live in the Light!”

**1** Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!  
We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.

**Refrain:** We are called to act with justice; We are called to love tenderly;  
 We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

**2** Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!  
We are called to be hope for the hopeless

So hatred and blindness will be no more. [**Refrain**]

**3** Sing, sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!  
God will reign; and we'll walk with each other

As sisters and brothers united in love. [**Refrain**]

**PROFESSION OF FAITH THE APOSTLES CREED**

**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 sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the quick 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.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**OFFERING/OFFERTORY**  “Now, Lift Up Your Head, Zion” George Handel

(from *Judas Maccabaeus* oratorio #30)

**OFFERING SONG #606**  Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,

Praise God, all creatures here below,

Praise God above, ye heavenly host,

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION/THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CLOSING HYMN #750** “Goodness Is Stronger than Evil”

(words by Bishop Desmond Tutu)

Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;

light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.

**Victory is ours, victory is ours through God who loves us. (x2)**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** “God’s Salvation Prospers in His Hand” George Handel

(from *Judas Maccabaeus* oratorio #33)

**UPCOMING CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY, OCT. 26th, 10:00 AM – ADULT BIBLE STUDY -** we are using the book **Delivered Out of Empire** (Part 1) by Walter Brueggemann.If we didn’t finish **Chapter 4.  The Terminus of Empire (Exodus 8:18)**, then we’ll complete that and please read **Chapter 5 Narrative as Curriculum (Exodus 10:1–2)** as well.

**REMINDER:** We are still looking for **volunteers** for **worship readers** and/or **juice/coffee hour**. There is a 3-month sign-up sheet posted just outside the office.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office.

**First Presbyterian Church of Forest Hills**

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**David Barnett**, Admin.718-268-4036 **Jeff Courter**, Pastor,

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**Nadina Grants**, Clerk of Session  **Hannah Lin**, Guest Organist

Please note: we now have a public WiFi for the church, though it may only be available in the church hall for now.

**Name: CHURCH GUEST**

**Password: welcome1**

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**929-418-0958 (please note: this is a new number)**

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