**August 3, 2025 8th Sunday after Pentecost 10 AM**

Title: Miser
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Hofheinz-Döring, Margret, 1910-1994. **Miser** **(1926)**,, from **Art in the Christian Tradition,**

a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

**PRELUDE**  “The Celestial Banquet” Olivier Messiaen (1908-93)

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**HYMN #396** “Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”

1 Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God.  
Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the word?  
All is vain unless the Spirit of the holy One comes down.  
Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

2 Sisters, will you come and help us? Moses’ sister aided him.  
Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin?  
Tell them all about the Savior. Tell them that he will be found.  
Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

3 Is there here a trembling jailer, seeking grace and filled with fears?  
Is there here a weeping Mary pouring forth a flood of tears?  
Brethren, join your cries to help them; sisters, let your prayers abound!  
Pray, O pray, that holy manna will be scattered all around.

4 Let us love our God supremely; let us love each other, too.  
Let us love and pray for sinners till our God makes all things new.  
Christ will call us home to heaven; at his table we’ll sit down.  
Christ will gird himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.

**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 49:1-12 (NRSVUE)

Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all inhabitants of the world,🕈  
 **both low and high, rich and poor together.** My mouth shall speak wisdom;

the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.🕈  
 **I will incline my ear to a proverb;**

**I will solve my riddle to the music of the harp.**

Why should I fear in times of trouble,

when the iniquity of my persecutors surrounds me,🕈  
 **those who trust in their wealth  
    and boast of the abundance of their riches?** Truly, no ransom avails for one’s life; there is no price one can give to God for it.🕈  
 **For the ransom of life is costly and can never suffice,** that one should live on forever and never see the Pit.🕈

**When we look at the wise, they die; fool and dolt perish together  
    and leave their wealth to others.**  
 Their graves are their homes forever, their dwelling places to all generations,  
    though they named lands their own.🕈  
 **Mortals cannot abide in their pomp; they are like the animals that perish.**

**FIRST READING** Ecclesiastes 1:2,12-14,2:18-23 (NRSVUE)

2Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

12I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. 13 I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. 14 I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

18 I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, 19 and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. 20So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, 21 because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. 22 What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? 23For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SECOND READING** Luke 12:13-21 (NRSVUE)

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” 14But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” 15And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” 16Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. 17And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ 18Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ 20 But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ 21 So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

**SERMON** “Real Treasure” Jeff Courter

**HYMN #847** “Our Hope, Our Life”

1. Our hope, our life are in the Lord, the God we honor and confess.

Why crave renown or opulence? They fade, those things we possess.

1. Some flaunt their gold; some trust its power, but what they cherish will decay;

and still the ransom for a soul remains a price to great to pay.

1. Though wealth or learing may be ours, or fame that spreads through the land,

the shackles of mortality prevent so much that we have planned.

1. Beyond this age of shame and sham we glimpse a better destiny:

the Lord will lift us free from death to dwell in praise eternally.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH THE NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**OFFERING/OFFERTORY**  “Meditation on God’s Grace” C. Simper

**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**

**PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.

You established your people to be a light for the nations,

and called us to walk in your paths and follow your ways.

Even now, you are coming to bring justice and peace to the world.

You have been our shepherd and savior in every generation.

Though we turned away from you, you were always faithful.

In the fullness of time, you sent your only Son to be our Immanuel.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty. Out of your great love for the world, you sent Jesus, not to condemn, but to save, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish, but have eternal life, born again from above by water and the Spirit.

In Christ Jesus, you drew near to us for our salvation,

teaching us to live in faith and to seek the good of all.

Through his dying and rising, you brought life to the world.

In Jesus Christ, born of Mary, you fulfilled your promise,

long-awaited by prophets, and spoken in the scriptures.

By his resurrection from the dead, we receive life everlasting.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,

we take from your creation this bread and this wine

and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming.

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you

to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us

and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,

that the bread we break and the cup we bless

may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit, unite us with Christ and with your church in all the world.

Keep us faithful and alert for the hour of Christ’s coming.

Let us live honorably as children of truth and light,

so that we may eat and drink together in your eternal realm.

Fill us with wisdom and understanding, knowledge and power,

and grant that we may live in harmony with one another

as we await the coming of the kingdom of heaven.

Help us to grow in faith and love, as your people in Christ.

Strengthen our hearts and teach us patience

as we watch and pray for the coming of the Lord.

Give hope and strength to those who call upon your name.

Feed us with the bread of life and fill us with the spirit of joy

so that we may share your grace and peace with all the world.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**SHARING OF COMMUNION** “Stabat Mater”John White (1936-)

(A 13th Century Christian Hymn to Mary,

which portrays her suffering as Jesus Chist’s Mother during His Crucifixion)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CLOSING HYMN #536 “**Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen”

1. Rise, O church, like Christ arisen, from this meal of love and grace;  
   may we through such love envision whose we are, and whose, our praise.  
   Alleluia, alleluia; God, the wonder of our days.
2. Rise, transformed, and choose to follow after Christ, though wounded, whole;  
   broken, shared, our lives are hallowed to release and to console.  
   Alleluia, alleluia; Christ, our present, past, and goal.
3. Rise, remember well the future God has called us to receive;  
   present by God's loving nurture, Spirited then let us live.  
   Alleluia, alleluia; Spirit, grace by whom we live.
4. Service be our sure vocation; courage be our daily breath;  
   mercy be our destination from this day and unto death.  
   Alleluia, alleluia. Rise, O church, a living faith.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** “Fugue in E Minor” John Stanley

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**UPCOMING CALENDAR**

**CHURCH BOOK DISCUSSION, WEDNESDAY, July 23rd , 7:00 PM -** Our mid-week study is reading Philip Yancy’s ***The Jesus I Never Knew***.  This week we will be discussing Chapter 6.

Reminder will be sent on Monday. Please note that there are no more books; they have already been given out.

**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**

***For offerings/donations:***

1. ***Qr code

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

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2. **Go to our church website:** [**presbyfh.org**](about:blank) **and click on the “**[**Give Now**](about:blank)**” icon to set up a donation; or click on the qr code above**
3. **Set up a “Bill pay” from your bank.**



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