

The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly., " And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, "Fasten your belt and put on your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting." As soon as he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many had gathered and were praying. When he knocked at the outer gate, a maid named Rhoda came to answer. On recognizing Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the gate, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the gate. They said to her, "You are out of your mind!" But she insisted that it was so. They said, "It is his angel." Meanwhile Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the gate, they saw him and were amazed. He motioned to them with his hand to be silent, and described for them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he added, "Tell this to James and to the believers." Then he left and went to another place. When morning came, there was no small commotion among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. When Herod had searched for him and could not find him, he examined the guards and ordered them to be put to death. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.

~ Acts 12:6-19

Celebrating a

THIS WEEK

September 25 Laura Little

September 26 Henry Garry Conn

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Arlene Wilson, Shane McWayne, Gerda Barbour, JoAnne Stirling, Ralph Green, Jesyca Murphy, and for the sick and those who need God's comfort.

Prayer Help Available. Please call the church office at 782-1750 if you have a prayer request. Your confidential prayer request will be put on the First Pres. Prayer Chain. Only those requesting public prayers are included for prayers in our church bulletin.

This service is being broadcast over radio station WATN 1240

* Indicates that those who are able may stand.

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation (403)

Be Thou My Vision (562)

In This Very Room (612)

God of Grace (435)

Carl Bingle, FPC Organist

Anna Laura Page

Gordon Young

Ron Harris

Hal Hopson

GREETING

Peace be with you.

And also with you

PRELUDE

Allegro, from L'Autonno (The Four Seasons)

Trillium String Trio

Agnes McCarthy, Stephanie Widrick, Christine Prevost

Carl Bingle, organ

Antonio Vivaldi

CALL TO WORSHIP ~ adapted from Psalm 19

Leader: The planets pronounce the beauty of God; the stars display an artisan's hand. The sun speaks always of God's glory, and the moon whispers wisdom.

No one can make the speech nor declare the wonders of heaven and earth.

Yet we sing and speak and declare, so all the world will behold the beauty.

The heavens hold a place for the sun, a place fitting for a beloved.

The sun emerges for our love, as one let loose runs unfettered.

People: **The sun rises from the far reaches of heaven and then returns with the night; nothing can hide from the gaze of the sun.**

***HYMN #403**

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

REGENT SQUARE

INVITATION TO REPENTENT PRAYERS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Who are you Lord? Are you John the Baptist? Are you the prophet Elijah? Are you the person who is downtrodden or the one who is forgotten? Help us to remember, O God! Remind us of who you are! Stir in our hearts a passion that breaks our hearts of stone. Forgive us we pray, for we know who you are, but pass by out of fear. Fill us with your peace and steadfast love.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF COMFORT AND FORGIVENESS

. . . in Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

In Jesus Christ you are also forgiven.

***RESPONSE - You Are My Hiding Place - Hymn #700**

*You are my hiding place. You always fill my heart with songs of deliverance;
Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. I will trust in You. Let the weak say,
I am strong in the strength of the Lord!*

LITURGIST WELCOME

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 12:6-19 (New Testament, page 131 in pew Bibles)

ANTHEM

Give Me Music arr. Cliff Duren
Chancel Choir; Sara Gleason, director; Carl Bingle, organ; Trillium Trio

CHILDREN’S TIME

Rev. Casey Carbone
(At this time we invite all K-7th graders to join us for Sunday School, please have children follow the teacher thru the door on the left. Children will meet parents in Fellowship Hall after the service.
As children depart for Sunday School, we sing “*Jesus Loves Me*” Hymn #185, verse 1)

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 8:27-33 (Old Testament, pages 43-44 in pew Bibles)

SERMON

“The Parable of Peter”
Rev. Dr. Fred Garry

***HYMN #562**

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

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.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

(If you would like to give via Venmo, information can be found on the back cover of the bulletin.)

OFFERTORY

Come With Us, O Blessed Jesus Dale Wood
Trillium String Trio; Carl Bingle, organ

***DOXOLOGY ~ HYMNAL #815**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

SENDING

***HYMN #426**

Blest Be the Tie That Binds DENNIS

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

THE POSTLUDE

Te Deum Laudamus (Thee, O Lord, We Praise) Marc-Antoine Charpentier
Trillium Trio and Carl Bingle, organ