A Service of Hope

Outer Banks Presbyterian Church
Sunday, March 19, 2017
4:00 pm
~ The Order of Service ~

† = Congregation Standing as able

~ We Gather Together as God’s People ~

THE PIANO/ORGAN PRELUDE: “Blessed Assurance”....................... arr. Eleanor Whitsett
Jason Evans & Steve Blackstock

THE WELCOME ......................................................................................... Mrs. Katie Blackstock Blanchard

†THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Spoken Responsively) ............................................. The Rev. Phil Glick

ONE: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble.
ALL: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;
ONE: Though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
ALL: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
ONE: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
ALL: God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be overthrown; God shall help it at the break of day.
ONE: The nations make much ado, and the realms are shaken; God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
ALL: The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

†THE OPENING PRAYER ............................................................................... George Lurie

†THE HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 687: “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”............... ST. ANNE

THE PRAYER FOR THE CONQUEST OF CANCER..................................... The Rev. Fran Peel

Almighty God, we give you thanks that your will for each of us is health and peace, wholeness and fullness of life. Yet, we know that illnesses of every kind challenge your plan for us, and therefore those illnesses continue to challenge us to seek your wholeness and to work for ourselves and others to make fullness of life a reality.

We thank you for those who experience sickness and who continue to fight courageously not only for themselves but for others – those who continue to live and grow and love and serve in spite of pain and suffering.

We thank, also, You for all who minister to cancer patients; for those who are instruments of Your healing grace - the doctors, nurses, technicians, those involved in research and experimentation, and rabbis, priests, pastors, family and friends who are with those who suffer - all channels of Your healing love.

Finally, we thank You for institutions and organizations that provide care - whose purpose is to challenge all that "corrupts and destroys the creatures of God."

We thank You for the great work of the American Cancer Society, and we ask your special blessings, dear God, on its healing work. Guide and empower our leaders, strengthen and give good success to its workers and volunteers, and grant that all may know that it is Your healing work that they do; and that one day You "will wipe away every tear from our eyes and that there will be no more pain, for the former things will have passed away."

This prayer, O God, we ask in Your powerful name of Love.

THE SPECIAL MUSIC: “Don’t Turn Back, Good People”.............................. SPIRITUAL
Doris Creesy, Laverna Brooks & Nick Hodsdon

“There’s a race that we must run, and a victory to be won.
Every hour gives us power to go on.”
The Word of the Lord

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Mark 4: 30-34 ...........................................Chaplain Cherri Wheeler

He also said, ‘With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade. With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

THE CHORAL ANTHEM: “Refuge”.................................................................Keith Christopher

This choral anthem is presented by a combined community choir led by Nonie Booth and accompanied by Steve Blackstock and Jason Evans. It is based on Psalm 46, "God is our Refuge and Strength…"

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Romans 5: 3-5 and 15: 12-13 ....... The Rev. Craig Peel

And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

And again Isaiah says, ‘The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.’ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

THE SPEAKER ...............................................................................................Allison Rollinson

THE INTERCESSORY PRAYER .................................................................The Rev. Spottswood Graves

THE HYMN NO. 840: “When Peace like a River” .............................................. VILE DU HAVRE

THE CANDELCIGHTING CEREMONY ......................................................The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore

~ We Go Forth in God’s Name ~

†THE HYMN OF SENDING NO. 35: “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”...... LOBE DEN HERREN

†THE BENEDICTION ..................................................................................... The Rev. Keith Dey

†THE CLOSING RESPONSE: "May God’s Blessings” ........................................ Cliff Barrows

The Sanctuary Choir & Congregation

May God’s blessings surround you each day as you trust Him and walk in His way.
May His presence within guard and keep you from sin.
Go in peace, go in joy, go in love. Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.

THE PIANO/ORGAN POSTLUDE: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" ............arr. Joel Raney

Jason Evans & Steve Blackstock

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In May 1985, Dr. Gordy Klatt walked and ran for 24 hours around a track in Tacoma, WA, ultimately raising $27,000 to help the American Cancer Society fight the nation's biggest health concern - cancer. A year later, 340 supporters joined the overnight event. Since those first steps, the Relay For Life movement has grown into a worldwide phenomenon, raising nearly 5 million dollars to fight cancer. 30 years later, Relay For Life events are held all over the country!

Throughout the day and into the evening, special laps and ceremonies are held, one of which is the Luminaria Ceremony. As the sun sets, luminaria lining the track light up the night. A hush falls over the crowd that had been overflowing with celebration. Relay For Life participants, survivors, and caregivers gather to remember loved ones lost to cancer and to honor those whose fight continues by dedicating luminaria bags. Each luminaria is personalized with a name, photo, message or drawing in memory or honor of a friend or loved one who has been affected by cancer. Each luminaria represents a person. They are our mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, children, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, friends, coworkers, and so many others.

This year, the Relay For Life of Dare County will be held at First Flight High School on May 6 from 12:00 noon-11:00 pm. Because it is a team event, individual participants are not required to be there the entire time. But, it's so much fun, you'll find it hard to leave! We hope to see you there!