

Readings for the Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary:

Job 38:1-7 (34-41)

¹Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: ²"Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? ³Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

⁴"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. ⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone ⁷when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

³⁴"Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, so that a flood of waters may cover you?

³⁵Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go and say to you, 'Here we are'? ³⁶Who has put wisdom in the inward parts, or given understanding to the mind? ³⁷Who has the wisdom to number the clouds? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens, ³⁸when the dust runs into a mass and the clods cling together?

³⁹"Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, ⁴⁰when they crouch in their dens, or lie in wait in their covert? ⁴¹Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God, and wander about for lack of food?

Mark 10:35-45

³⁵James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." ³⁶And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" ³⁷And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." ³⁸But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" ³⁹They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; ⁴⁰but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

⁴¹When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. ⁴²So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."



*We are a Christian community welcoming all
as we seek to grow in faith and serve others.*

Palisades Presbyterian Church

Palisades, New York 10964

October 22, 2006

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Palisades Presbyterian Church Welcomes You

On Reflection:

‘Baptism evokes all the rich biblical images of water. Water was the first element of creation, over which the Spirit hovered and from which came all life. Water overwhelmed a world gone wrong with destructive force. Water parted and slaves walked to freedom on dry land. Water flowed from a rock to quench the thirst of a parched and grumbling band of wanderers. Water from a young woman’s womb surrounded a baby boy as God took on flesh to dwell among us. Water spilled over this baby now grown into the man Jesus and his identity as Beloved of God was proclaimed. Water will flow through the city of God where all people gather in peace and the nations are healed.’ *Call to Worship*. Volume 40.1, 2006-2007 p. 105.

Prelude

Church Bell

Introit *Little Ones* by Michael Shapiro

Call to Worship

Leader: We come here, bound to Christ and to one another.

All: We are a people called with others to God’s work in the world.

Leader: It is a call that touches and changes us,

All: And through the sacraments and worship we embrace the tensions of such charges and missions.

Leader: Both font and table bring us into One as disciples,

All: Forming this community as Body of Christ, joined with all in the wonder of creation, life, and love.

Leader: From the great unordered waters of Divine grace,

All: Let us join with gratitude in worship, song, and praise for the mission, the work, and the One who guides us. Amen

Announcements

Prayer for Illumination

1st Reading Job 38: 1 – 7 (34 – 41) [Text on the back panel.]

Anthem *My Life Flows On* by Robert Lowry, arranged by Beverly McLarry (Johanna Lo’s sister!)

2nd Reading: The Gospel of Mark: 10:35 – 45 [Text on the back panel.]

Sermon *EGO: Easing God Out*

Meditation

Offering our Gifts and Tithes

Doxology

*** Prayer of Dedication**

Offering our Joys and Concerns for Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

*** Hymn #248** *You Are Before Me, Lord*

Charge and Benediction

Choral Response

Postlude

**All that are able please stand*

Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

When in awesome wonder
we consider the rolling thunder -- and your power,
It requires that we raise our hearts and our eyes toward you,
For the distance demands an upward longing,
as well as a deep look inward.
Between those two, we find ourselves,
 our gifts and our shortcomings.
As we long and search,
we thank you for all we find and aspire to;
We ask for your gentle kindness, compassion, and assurance --
especially when the “find” is all too revealing.
Too revealing of how much,
 We have -- to do.
So, we pray and ask:
 for your forgiveness, tenderness, and affection.
We strive and promise to strive when unable.
We seek to become a people, who in humble adoration
desire you and your will, with faith and courage -
 courage to be your voice, stand in your presence,
 and witness to all -
in all the ways you may call us to serve.
Amen.

Silent Confession

Choral Response

Declaration of Forgiveness

* **Hymn #322** *Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.*

Sharing the Peace

* **Hymn #467** *How Great Thou Art*

Swedish Folk Melody: *O Store Gud* by Gustav Bober, 1885

New Member Installation for Thomas and Denise Donofrio

Elder: On behalf of the session, I present to the congregation of the Palisades Presbyterian Church Thomas and Denise Donofrio who have been received into the membership of this congregation by their affirmation of faith.

Minister: Denise and Tom, you come to us as members of one holy catholic church, into which you were baptized, and by which you have been nurtured. We are all one with each other, sisters and brothers in the family of God beyond anything we could ever know. We rejoice in the gifts you bring to us and are grateful and happy to welcome you here. As we join in today’s worship, it is fitting that together we reaffirm the covenant into which we all were baptized, the same baptism that Sophia will enter shortly, claiming again the promises of God that are ours in the one baptism we share.

Hear then these words from Holy Scripture, from the book of Galatians, Chapter 3: “As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourself with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

Profession of Faith:

Minister: Sisters and brothers, our baptism is the sign and seal of our becoming one, nearer to the teachings of Jesus that we follow and to the life of the Holy Spirit that gathers about us like swaddling clothes.

We are united in the life and ministry and resurrection of Jesus, so much so that he is with us today and always, showing the way for us to be faithful and true, practicing... practicing... to be more faithful as we go. Tom and Denise, with you joining us in this public way, we celebrate the grace and freedom that is the renewal of baptism and the great covenant we have with God.

I ask all of you, therefore, once again to reject distance from God (which we call sin), as you find God in your hearts and to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, confessing the faith and courage of the church into which we were baptized.

Questions of Tom and Denise:

Minister: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of distancing yourself from God, and by so doing affirm God's power and grace in this world to overcome all things.

Tom and Denise: I do.

Minister: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

Tom & Denise: I do.

Minister: Will you be a faithful disciple, obeying and showing the love of Jesus in the things you do and the ways in which you reach out to others?

Tom and Denise: I will with God's help.

Minister: Let us all confess our faith.

Dear God, bestow your grace and love on Sophia and on us, and on all who dwell on this small planet of ours. Give us each inner strength and peace and patience for the journey ahead. Amen.

Sacrament of Baptism:

Minister to Tom and Denise:

By what name will you baptize this child?

Tom & Denise: Sophia

Minister:

Sophia, incarnation of earth, stardust and God's breath, I baptize you in the name of the God who created, who redeems you, who sustains you— One God, like a father or a mother, like a son or a daughter, like a holy, leading, and ever-loving Spirit— all One God.

Minister to the Congregation

This is Sophia. If you are willing to try to make the world safe for her and for all earth's children, would you please stand and gently applaud her baptism and join us in singing this third and slightly modified verse of "Morning Has Broken."

Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, Praise every morning,
God's new creation, of this new day.

Welcome, Sophia!

Children: *Church School*

Minister to the Congregation:

Will we work to provide for Sophia and through her and all earth's children a family of faith, a family where among doubt and faith, laughter, and tears, prayers and shouts—she may find strength, warmth, and friends to trust dreams and visions with? If so, will you please stand and respond:

Congregation: We will with God's help.

Minister:

God of abundant grace and beauty,
this morning our prayer is for Sophia --
and through her, for all earth's children --
that in what we do as individuals
and what we do together as a community
we may never betray this child's trust,
dampen this child's hope,
or discourage this child's dreams.

Help us to provide a space and a community that embodies love
so that all children growing in our midst
will be loving. Help us to be kind
so they will learn kindness.
Help us to be faithful
so they will learn how to embody faith
with their hearts, minds, hands and feet.

Help us as a community to weave a tapestry of
love, tolerance, caring, and hospitality for all,
so that Sophia need never be afraid,
because she is supported
by a web of justice and love.

Statement of Faith: (In Unison)

We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God, who has created and is always creating something new; who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new; who works in us and others by the blessings and mystery of the Holy Spirit.

We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence; to live with respect in Creation; to love and serve others; to seek justice and resist evil; to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Minister: Denise and Tom - you have publicly professed your faith. Will you be faithful members of this congregation, share in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Denise and Tom: I will with God's help.

Minister: Holy and ever loving God, we praise you for calling us to be a servant people and for gathering us into the Body of Christ. We thank you for choosing to add to our family this sister and brother in faith. Together may we live in your Spirit and so love one another that we may have the mind of Christ Jesus our Lord to whom we give honor and glory forever. Amen.

Welcome to Tom and Denise Donofrio and their family!

Baptism Ceremony for Sophia Donofrio

Minister:

Baptism is a time of intimacy.
It is a time when we recognize
that the God of love,
the God beyond all creeds with all their truths,
cares about each of us so much
that we are accompanied by God
every step of the way on our journey.

Baptism is a time when we recognize
that to be fully human,
we need two things--God and a community --
to love us and support us in our lives,
walking beside us, talking with us, teaching us,
guiding us and marking our paces.

It's a time when we commit ourselves,
as a community on behalf of a world,
to welcoming a child into our midst
and making the earth safe for her
so she will learn how to live without fear,
to live with love,
and to walk uprightly in God's ways,
welcoming the stranger,
working for God's justice and peace.

Invitation to Denise, Tom, Victoria, Sophia and Sponsors to Come Forward

Minister to Denise and Tom:

Like all of us, in order to grow toward wholeness, toward grace and
gracefulness, toward gentleness and faith, Sophia will need as much
honesty, as much truth, and as much faithfulness as those near to her can
give.

Therefore, as Sophia's parents, will you share yourselves as fully as you
can with her, showing your daughter in word and in action where you
find God in the world, and will you do what you can to help her find
God for herself? Will you?

Tom and Denise: We will with God's help.

Minister to the Sponsors/Godparents:

Will you be near these parents, supporting them, encouraging them,
loving them, and will you join them in the awesome yet wondrous task
of helping Sophia find God for herself? Will you?

Sponsors/Godparents: We will with God's help.

Minister to the Grandparents (if present):

Will you do what grandparents do best, embodying in your very being
God's radical, unconditional love for Sophia Will you?

Grandparents (if present): We will with God's help.

Minister to Victoria and the Children of the Congregation:

Will you be there as sister and friends to Sophia, to welcome her into
your group, helping her to be friends with you and God? Will you?

Victoria and the Children: We will with God's help,