

Palisades Presbyterian Church

Palisades, New York 10964

June 10, 2007

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



Every child comes with the message that God
is not yet discouraged of [humanity].

- Rabindranath Tagore, Bengali poet.

Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Palisades Presbyterian Church Welcomes You

Bienvenido! Worship at Palisades Presbyterian Church begins with meditation. The music, the quote on the cover, the quiet of this place is all meant to encourage and deepen your own inner work. Thank you for entering the spirit of this place and time by honoring the silence. Please be sure to join us after worship in the Parish House.

Prelude

Church Bell

Introit *Little Ones* by Michael Shapiro

***Call to Worship**

Leader: We come here, bound to God, to one another, and to Nicholas on this,
his Day of Baptism.

All: We are called to embrace others to God's mission in this world.

Leader: We give thanks to God for all those gathered here and beyond this sacred space!

All: We stand in awe of a God of gentleness and welcoming across all boundaries.

Leader: By our voices and presence, we make our hearts known to one another, affirming our need to be in community – in worship.

All: Together, we enter into the Mystery of God, willingly, hopefully, knowing it is where we are most at home.

Leader: We sing in praise, of generosity, hospitality, and a radical welcome!

All: Thanking God in gratitude for one another and the mission we share, knowing the Spirit is with us, always!

All: Come! Let us worship God together! Amen.

Hymn #315 *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

From the time of Israel and long before
God has been with us: always and everlasting.
Like those from long before us and those who will follow,
we seek to serve God with all our heart.
Like the Exodus and sands of ancient times,
we know the desert in our own days:
in our hearts and in the hearts and lives others.
We sometimes find ourselves dominated by distractions
and selfish interests – and thrust into the wilderness again,
bottoming out, in the distance between who we are
and who it is God calls us to be; standing:
face-to-face with what it means to be called Faithful.
Such are the moments of the deepest meaning
and of the greatest difficulty.
So, we pray and ask, having looked into the eyes of
Nicholas James and those who love him –
that we remember that we are all children
and that we can live confidently in the promise of God.
An ancient promise of succor in all our days.
Just as the rains were promised and came to a parched land.
We come before the Eternal One, thirsting,
seeking the forgiveness and peace,
admitting that we need God; praying that we may always ready for those God sends
our way. 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**

**Baptism Ceremony for Nicholas James Donofrio
A Baptism Prayer – In Unison**

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 this 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 is a time when we once again commit ourselves,
as a community on behalf of this vast universe of God,
to welcoming a child, Nicholas James, into our midst.

It is a time of commitment to making this earth safe for him,
a place where he will learn how to live without fear,
a place where Nicholas James can live with and in love,
walking uprightly in God's ways,
welcoming the stranger, and working for God's justice and peace. Amen.

Invitation to Come Forward in Preparation for Baptism

Thomas and Denise Donofrio and Baby Nicholas James Donofrio
Victoria and Sophia Donofrio, Sisters

Elle and George Corcoran; Stephanie Lubben, Jim Donofrio
Sponsors

Minister to the Parents of Nicholas James, Tom and Denise

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

Remembering this, as Nicholas James's parents, will you share yourselves as fully as you can with him, showing your son in word and in action where you find God in the world, and will you help him to find God for himself?

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

Minister to the Sponsors of Nicholas James

Ellen, George, Stephanie, and Jim, will you be near these parents, supporting them, encouraging them, loving them? Will you join them in the awesome yet wondrous task of helping Nicholas James find God for himself? Will you?

Ellen, George, Stephanie, and Jim: We will with God's help.

Minister to the Gathered Family and Friends

Will you do what family does best, embodying in your very being God's radical, unconditional love for Nicholas James, as you have for Victoria and Sophia and the other children of our community? Will you?

Gathered Family: We will with God's help.

Minister to Victoria, Sophia, and the Gathered Children

Will you be there as sisters and friends to your brother Nicholas James, welcoming him into your group, helping him to be friends with one another and God? Will you?

All the Children: We will with God's help.

*** Minister to the Congregation: (Please Stand)**

Will you work to provide for Nicholas James and all God's children a family of faith, a family where among doubt and faith, laughter and tears, prayers and shouts—he may find strength, warmth, and friends to trust with his dreams and visions?

Congregation: We will with God's help.

Minister:

God of abundant grace and beauty,
this morning our prayer is for Nicholas James.
We ask in this prayer that what we do as individuals
and together as a community will never betray his or
any child's trust. It is a prayer of this Palisades Presbyterian Church
community and beyond that seeks never to dampen the hope
or discourage dreams of our children and your will for them.

Help us, Creator God, to provide a space and a family
that embodies your love, so that all children growing in our midst
may learn to become loving in return.

Help us to be kind, so that we may teach such kindness.
Help us to be faithful, so the children among us will learn
how to embody faith with their hearts, minds, and their actions.

We pray to be a community that weaves a tapestry of
love, tolerance, caring, and hospitality for all,
so that Nicholas James and others need never be afraid,
knowing they is always supported, surrounded -
by a sacred web of justice and love.

Dear God, bestow your grace and love upon Nicholas James, his family, and all who
dwell on this small and fragile planet of ours.
Give us inner strength, peace, and patience -
so that together we may carry your grace and presence – alive
and revealing – into this broken world of ours.
Amen.

Nicholas James Donofrio

Minister to Thomas and Denise Donofrio

By what name will you baptize this child?

Thomas and Denise: Nicholas James

Baptism of Nicholas James

Nicholas James, created of earth, stardust, and God's breath, I baptize you in the name of the God who gave you to us, who redeems and sustains you — One God, *Elohim*, like a father or a mother, like a son or a daughter, like a holy, leading, and ever-loving Spirit — all One God, as we may know God.

Minister to the Congregation

This is Nicholas James Donofrio. If you are willing to try to make the world safe for him and for all earth's children, would you please stand and gently applaud his baptism and join us in singing *Spirit*, #319 in your hymnal or reprinted on the inside back cover of this bulletin.

Welcome, Nicholas James!

Hymn #319 *Spirit*

Announcements

Children's Message and Church School

Prayer for Illumination

(Readings may be followed on the inside last page of the bulletin.)

1st Reading Psalm 146:1-10

Anthem *Christ the Lord, Our Sure Foundation*
by Lloyd Larson.

2nd Reading Galatians 1:11-24

Sermon *Can You Hear Me Now?*

Meditation

Offering our Gifts and Tithes

Doxology

*** Prayer of Dedication**

Offering our Joys and Concerns for Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

*** Hymn #339** *Be Thou My Vision*

Charge and Benediction

Choral Response

Postlude

**All that are able please stand*

Spirit – Hymn #319

Refrain:

*Spirit, spirit of gentleness
blow through the wilderness
Calling and free.
Spirit, spirit of restlessness
Stir me from placidness
Wind, wind on the sea.*

You moved on the waters, You called to the deep
Then you coaxed up the mountains, From the valleys of sleep,
And over the eons, you called to each thing,
“Awake from our slumbers, And rise on your wings.” –*Refrain*

You swept through the desert; You stung with the sand,
And you gifted your people, With a law and a land,
And when they were blinded with their idols and lies,
Then you spoke through your prophets, to open their eyes. - *Refrain*

You sang in a stable, You cried from a hill,
Then you whispered in silence, When the whole world was still,
And down in the city, you called once again,
When you blew through your people, on the rush of the wind. – *Refrain*

You call from tomorrow, You break ancient schemes,
From the bondage of sorrow, The captives dream dreams;
Our women see visions, Our men clear their eyes,
With bold new decisions, Your people arise. - *Refrain*

Today's Readings

Psalm 146:1-10

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

³Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

⁴When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

⁵Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the LORD their God, ⁶who made heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

⁷who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; ⁸the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow,

but the way of the wicked God brings to ruin. ¹⁰The LORD will reign forever,

your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

Paul's Letter to the Galatians 1:11-24

¹¹For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; ¹²for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

¹³You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. ¹⁴I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors.

¹⁵But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased ¹⁶to reveal the Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, ¹⁷nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus.

¹⁸Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days; ¹⁹but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother. ²⁰In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie! ²¹Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, ²²and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; ²³they only heard it said, "The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴And they glorified God because of me.