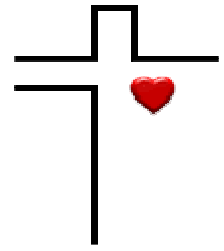


**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
*Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
 June 29, 2008 - 10:30 a.m.



**A Celebration of Our Nation's Independence**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

We cry to God, "How long will you hide your face from me?"

**How long must I have sorrow in my heart all day long?**

Even in sorrow and pain, we trust in God's steadfast love.

**We sing to God, who has dealt graciously with us.**

**\*HYMN**

**This is My Song**

"Finlandia" Music by Jean Sibelius (1899) / Words by Lloyd Stone (1934)

1. This is my song, o God of all the na - tions, a song of  
 2. My country's skies are bluer than the o - cean, and sunlight  
 3. May truth and free - dom come to eve - ry nation! May peace a-

peace for lands a-far and mine. This is my home, the country where my heart is;  
 beams on clover leaf and pine. But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,  
 bound where strife has raged so long; that each may seek to love and build together,

Here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho---ly shrine; But other hearts in  
 And skies are ev'---ry-where as blue as mine: O hear my song, thou  
 A world u - ni----ted, right - ing ev---'ry wrong; A world u---ni----ted

o--ther lands are beat-ing, with hope and dreams as true and high as mine.  
 God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.  
 in its love for freedom, proclaiming peace together in one song.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

*Here we are, O God' we present ourselves to you. But how little we trust you to provide! How we fear the path to which you call us! How wayward we continue to Be! We have been slaves to sin, which leads to death. You call us to obedience, which leads to righteousness and life. Lord, forgive our lack of faith and loyalty. Make us obedient from the heart, generous to the people you send our way, and open to your bountiful grace.*

### SILENT CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### \*GLORIA PATRI

### PRAYER FOR THE NATION

*God of ages, in your sight nations rise and fall, and pass through times of peril. Now when our land is troubled, be near to judge and save. May leaders be led by your wisdom; may they search your will and see it clearly. If we have turned from your way, help us to reverse our ways and repent. Give us your light and your truth to guide us; through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of this world, and our Savior. Amen.*

### ANTHEM

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

## AN INDEPENDENCE DAY REFLECTION

### READING of the OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 66:10-14 (NRSV)

### HYMN

#### O Beautiful For Spacious Skies

*O beautiful for spacious skies,  
for amber waves of grain,  
for purple mountain majesties  
above the fruited plain;  
America! America!  
God shed his grace of thee,  
and crown thy good with brotherhood  
from sea to shining sea.*

### READING

#### The Boston Tea Party

By John Andrews  
(Adapted) From a letter written to a friend in 1773

### HYMN

#### O Beautiful For Spacious Skies

*O beautiful for pilgrim feet,*

*whose stern, impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat  
across the wilderness:  
America! America!  
God mend thine ev'ry flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self-control,  
Thy liberty in law.*

READING

The Declaration of Independence

By Washington Irving

HYMN

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,  
Who more than self their country loved,  
And mercy more than life!  
America! America!  
May God thy gold refine  
Till all success be nobleness  
And every gain divine!

READING

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (1776)

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Pat Petty, Organist

READING

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS (1863) (in part)

Given by Abraham Lincoln

HYMN

O Beautiful For Spacious Skies

*O beautiful for patriot dream  
That sees beyond the years  
Thine alabaster cities gleam,  
Undimmed by human tears!  
America! America!  
God shed His grace on thee  
And crown thy good with servanthood  
From sea to shining sea!*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

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**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: A LITANY for the NATION**

Almighty God, giver of all good things: We thank you for the natural majesty and beauty of this land. They restore us, though we often destroy them.

**HEAL US.**

We thank you for the great resources of this nation. They make us rich, though we often exploit them.

**FORGIVE US.**

We thank you for the men and women who have made this country strong. They are models for us, though we often fall short of them.

**INSPIRE US.**

We thank you for the torch of liberty which has been lit in this land. It has drawn people from every nation, though we have often hidden from its light.

**ENLIGHTEN US.**

We thank you for the faith we have inherited in all its rich variety. It sustains our life, though we have been faithless again and again.

**RENEW US.**

O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

**LORD, KEEP THIS NATION UNDER YOUR CARE.**

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

**GIVE GRACE TO YOUR SERVANTS, O LORD.**

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

**GIVE GRACE TO YOUR SERVANTS, O LORD.**

To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

**GIVE GRACE TO YOUR SERVANTS, O LORD.**

\*To our military men and women who serve at this nation's calling. Give them your strength and protection that they may return home in a time of peace and promise.

**GIVE GRACE TO YOUR SERVANTS, O LORD.**

Teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name. for yours is the kingdom, O Lord.

**AND YOU ARE EXALTED AS HEAD ABOVE ALL.**

Help us, O Lord, to finish the good work here begun. Strengthen our efforts to blot out ignorance and prejudice, and to abolish poverty and crime. And hasten the day when all our people, with many voices in one united chorus, will glorify your holy Name.

**AMEN.**

*This litany was used at the National Cathedral, Washington, D.C.,  
at the celebration of Independence Day on Sunday, July 2, 1995.*

*\*Added by the Reverend Georgia N. King, 2008*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**\*HYMN**

Live Into Hope

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**\*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING RESPONSE**

**\*POSTLUDE**

- Those who are comfortable doing so are invited to stand.

**Welcome** to all who worship with us this morning. Visitors and members are asked to please sign the Ritual of Friendship pad. Thank you for worshipping with us!

**Flowers** have been placed in the sanctuary this morning by

**Helping Hand** contribution.

The Reverend Georgia N. King, Pastor

Organist-Choir Director- Mrs. Pat Petty

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Sunday June 29**

**No Sunday School this date**

10:15 a.m. Fellowship Time – Southeast Vestibule

10:15 a.m. Choir gathers in Choir Room

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship

**OFFICE HOURS**

Barbara Karins, Secretary      Monday to Friday. 9:00-12:00

Church Office 274-5331

Church e-mail: [firstpresborger@arn.net](mailto:firstpresborger@arn.net)

Church web site: [www.firstpresbyterianborger.org](http://www.firstpresbyterianborger.org)



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