



First Presbyterian Church

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Service for the Lord's Day

September 17, 2023

11:00 a.m.

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Whether you are visiting just for today or seeking a church home, we are glad you are here!
We invite all worshipers to record your presence with us by signing the blue folders found in the pews.*

Gathering in Prayer

PRELUDE

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Joel Raney

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF THE MORNING

Almighty God, you have taught us that all our deeds without love are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the very bond of peace and of all goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Gathering Around the Word

+CALL TO WORSHIP

We observe this day as the Lord's Day, giving thanks to God, who gives justice to the oppressed, who forgives us and redeems us, and crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.

Let us worship the One who is worthy of our praise!

+PRAYER OF ADORATION

+HYMN OF ADORATION

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

#420

+PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Judge, we admit we have double standards. We seek forgiveness for ourselves, but fail to forgive others. We seek relief for ourselves, but fail to seek relief for others. We seek leniency for ourselves, but fail to show that mercy to others. Forgive us, mighty God, and help us to forgive, showing others the same grace and mercy that you have generously shown to us. Amen.

(A moment of silent prayer for personal confessions.)

+KYRIE ELEISON ***Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.***

+DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

People of God, hear and believe: God does not deal with us according to our sins,
but according to God's own steadfast love for us.

**As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our sins from us.
Thanks be to God!**

+GLORIA PATRI ***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.***

Proclaiming the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

ANTHEM

"I Will Sing Unto the Lord"

Joseph Martin

THE PSALM

Psalm 103:1-10

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

People: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all the benefits of the LORD,

Leader: who forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;

People: who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

Leader: who satisfies you with good things, and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

People: The LORD executes righteousness and judgment for all who are oppressed.

Leader: To Moses were made know God's ways and to the children of Israel the works of the LORD.

People: The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness.

Leader: The LORD will not always accuse us nor remain angry forever.

All: The LORD has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

THE OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 50:15-21
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord
People: **Thanks be to God**

THE EPISTLE Romans 14:1-12
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord
People: **Thanks be to God**

MEDITATION "The Love of God" Frederick Lehman

THE GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord
People: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON "Forgive from your Heart" Rev. Clint Schofield

Responding to the Word

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH "A Brief Statement of Faith"

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD 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.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

***Hear our prayer, O Lord,
Hear our prayer, O Lord.
Incline thine ear to us,
And grant us thy peace. Amen.***

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

+HYMN "Amazing Grace" vss. 1-4 #280

+COMMISSIONING

Leader: We have observed this day to honor God.
God's promises go with us as we depart.
**People: God upholds us and helps us to stand.
We are grateful that God strengthens our faith.**
Leader: We do not live or die to ourselves.
Christ has claimed us and offered us life.
**People: From Christ, we have learned to forgive.
We have been taught to value every person.**
Leader: Let every knee bow daily before our God.
Let every tongue give praise to the Almighty.
**All: God helps us turn evil into good.
Every day we can know God's loving presence.**

BENEDICTION

+BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Amazing Grace" vs.5 #280

POSTLUDE "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" Sebastian Temple

+Please stand, if you are able



*Grant, O Lord,
that what has been said with our lips we may believe in our hearts,
and that what we believe in our hearts we may practice in our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*