

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 19, 2020

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude

"He Leadeth Me"

arr. Raymond H. Haan

Call to Worship

from Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God; God made us, and we are his.

We are God's people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Hymn 619

"Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven"

1 Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days!

2 Praise God for the grace and favor shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing our Maker's faithfulness!

3 Like a loving parent caring, God knows well our feeble frame,
gladly all our burdens bearing, still to countless years the same.
Alleluia! Alleluia! All within me, praise God's name!

4 Angels, teach us adoration; you behold God face to face.
Sun and moon and all creation, dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,

***our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.***

***Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.***

***Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image;
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.***

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Romans 8:12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:24-30

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Psalter: Psalm 139

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,”

**even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.**

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

**In your book were written all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.**

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

I try to count them, they are more than sand; I come to the end, I am still with you.

O that you would kill the wicked, O God, and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me—

those who speak of you maliciously, and lift themselves up against you for evil!

Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD? Do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.

See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Sermon: "Inescapably Yours"

Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn 28

"You Are Before Me, Lord"

- 1 You are before me, Lord, you are behind, and over me you have spread out your hand;
such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too high to grasp, too great to understand.
- 2 Then from your Spirit where, Lord, shall I go; and from your presence where, Lord, shall I fly?
If I ascend to heaven you are there, and still are with me if in hell I lie.
- 3 If I should take my flight into the dawn, if I should dwell on ocean's farthest shore,
your mighty hand will rest upon me still, and your right hand will guard me evermore.
- 4 If I should say, "Let darkness cover me, and I shall hide within the veil of night,"
surely the darkness is not dark to you: the night is as the day, the darkness light.
- 5 Search me, O God; search me and know my heart; try me, O God; my mind and spirit try;
keep me from any path that gives you pain, and lead me in the everlasting way.

Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;**

**who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;**

the third day he rose again from the dead;

**he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;**

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;

the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Offertory

"Where Shall I Go from Your Spirit?"

Vocal duet: Frank Jones & Nathaniel Worrell

Kenney Potter

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

GO IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn 543

"God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me"

1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me.

Refrain: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

2 Bind to myself the Name of Holy, great cloud of witnesses enfold;
prophets, apostles, angels witness. **(Refrain)**

3 Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight, flashing of lightning, strength of wind,
depth of the sea to soil of planet. **(Refrain)**

4 Walking behind to hem my journey, going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above, and all ways. **(Refrain)**

5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me. **(Refrain)**

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

"Trumpet Tune in C Major"

Michael McCabe

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor

Rev. William Carter

Liturgist

Peter Moore

Director of Music

Frank Jones

Organist

Kay Ten Eyck

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