

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 30, 2020

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude "Songs Without Words #23, Volkslied Opus 53 #5" Felix Mendelssohn

Call to Worship from Psalm 24

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?

***Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,
who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.***

They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation.

***Such is the company of those who seek the Lord,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.***

Hymn 93 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

- 1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.
- 2 Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.
- 3 Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

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 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 9:9-13

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting* with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

Psalter: Psalm 26

Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.
Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and mind.
For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you.
I do not sit with the worthless, nor do I consort with hypocrites;
I hate the company of evildoers, and will not sit with the wicked.
I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O LORD,
singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous deeds.
O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell, and the place where your glory abides.
Do not sweep me away with sinners, nor my life with the bloodthirsty,
those in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes.
But as for me, I walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.
My foot stands on level ground; in the great congregation I will bless the LORD.

Sermon: "Avoiding the Riff-Raff"

Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn 727

"Jesus Knows the Inmost Heart"

Refrain: Jesus knows the inmost heart: nothing can be hidden.
Jesus knows the inmost heart: nothing can be hidden.

- 1 This our sinful hearts require: flame of God's refining fire,
working in us day by day till the dross is burned away. (**Refrain**)
- 2 Jesus knows our deepest fears, knows the pain of hidden tears.
By his words of love and peace every heart can find release. (**Refrain**)

- 3 When our lives are in his hand nothing can his work withstand;
his forgiveness sets us free, saves us for eternity. (**Refrain**)
- 4 So our faith will be restored by the word of Christ our Lord;
for the warmth his love imparts melts the very hardest hearts. (**Refrain**)

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

“Be Thou My Vision”

Arr. Robert Hunter

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

GO IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn 804

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

- 1 Rejoice, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
- 2 With voice as full and strong as ocean's surging praise,
send forth the sturdy hymns of old, the psalms of ancient days. (**Refrain**)
- 3 Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as ye go,
from youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe: (**Refrain**)
- 4 At last the march shall end; the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest. (**Refrain**)
- 5 Then on, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King. (**Refrain**)

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

“Waltz in Ab Major Opus 69 #1, Posthumous”

Frédéric Chopin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	Rev. William Carter
Liturgist	Cameron Taylor
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Pianist	Nathaniel Worrell

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