

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

Trusting that God's grace embraces and makes covenant with all believers, First Presbyterian Church intends to be an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all people. All persons are welcomed into this fellowship and membership regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic or racial identity, economic or educational status, or political affiliation.

Order of Worship

18 July 2021

8th Sunday After Pentecost

Prayer of Preparation

*O Trinity,
fill our weakness with your strength;
bind up our brokenness with your unity and your peace;
calm our fears and our dread of dying.
Let us be about the tasks of your love.
Use us to build a holy place
where healing and caring and joy blend in the tones of worship
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.*

Welcome

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

For the Beauty of the Earth

Pierpoint/Kocher

Call to Worship

from Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Anthem

A Time for All Things

Scottish tune/D. Wagner

Confession

Eternal God, your steadfast love endures forever. We confess that we act as if we are in control as if you will bless whatever we do. If we think of others at all, it is with an eye toward their usefulness to us. If we consider your creation, it is to ponder what benefits us. We have failed to show your love or to do justice in obedience to you. We have no right to be called your children. Have mercy on us, God of grace. Lord, have mercy. Forgive our sins, we humbly pray. Put the mind of Christ within us, O God, so that our lives take the form of a cross. Use us to break down walls of hostility within the church, among the nations, and around the world. Equip us to do your will, giving you glory, honor, and praise together with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Summary of the Law

Matthew 22:37-39

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and the first commandment. And a second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson

Ephesians 2:11-22

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Affirmation of Faith

from The Confession of 1967
(Inclusive Language Version, 2002) 9.31 and 9.32

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God’s reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God’s message of reconciliation and shares God’s labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to his call. The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church’s mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God’s judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church’s own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God’s renewal of human life in society and of God’s victory over all wrong.

1 O Christ, the great foun - da - tion on which your peo - ple stand
 2 Bap - tized in one con - fes - sion, one church in all the earth,
 3 Where ty - rants' hold is tight - ened, where strong de - vour the weak,
 4 This is the mo - ment glo - rious when he who once was dead

to preach your true sal - va - tion in ev - ery age and land:
 we bear our Lord's im - pres - sion, the sign of sec - ond birth:
 where in - no - cents are fright - ened, the righ - teous fear to speak,
 shall lead his church vic - to - rious, their cham - pion and their head.

pour out your Ho - ly Spir - it to make us strong and pure,
 one ho - ly peo - ple gath - ered in love be - yond our own,
 there let your church a - wak - ing at - tack the powers of sin
 The Lord of all cre - a - tion his heaven - ly king - dom brings:

to keep the faith un - bro - ken as long as worlds en - dure.
 by grace we were in - vit - ed; by grace we make you known.
 and, all their ram - parts break - ing, with you the vic - tory win.
 the fi - nal con - sum - ma - tion, the glo - ry of all things.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Betsy Conzelman, Margaret Cooper, Charles Francis, Bill Harris, Sue Jones, Mildred Moore Lopez, Pat K. Rowlett

Prayers reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion. Copyright 2014.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-701790. All rights reserved.

For the Beauty of the Earth: Text: Follitt Sandford Pierpoint, 1863, alt. Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838; abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906. As published in *Glory to God* © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved. Permission by ONE LICENSE #A-701790.

A Time for All Things: Text: Douglas E. Wagner adapted from Ecclesiastes; Music: Scottish Folk Tune arranged by Douglas E. Wagner. ©1982 Sacred Music Press. All rights reserved. Permission by ONE LICENSE #A-701790.

O Christ, the Great Foundation: Text: Timothy T'ingfang Lew, 1933, alt.; trans. Mildred A. Wiant, 1966. Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864. As published in *Glory to God* © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved. Permission by ONE LICENSE #A-701790.