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.

Trio *I Will at All Times Bless the Lord* G.F. Handel
Arranged by Hal H. Hopson

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Postlude *Come, Lord, and Tarry Not!* Powell

You are invited to remain seated for the postlude or you may exit the pew when directed by the ushers.

If you have not already done so, please place your offering in the marked basket nearest the exit you use. We look forward to seeing you again next week.

A special thank you to our ushers!

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Trio: Caroline Cready, Ava Smith, Erica Smith

Cover image: JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.

"The Late-arriving Workers," JESUS MAFA, 1973, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

20 September 2020
16th Sunday After Pentecost

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

Prayer of Preparation

O God, we are your laborers sent into the vineyard, and we are told what we will be paid. The amount is the same regardless of the hours worked. Help us to remember that the kingdom's gifts are not dependent upon how much we produce or how long we work. Your emphasis is upon how willing we are to approach your tasks, and not so much upon what we are due because of how or when we respond. Help us to not grumble at your gifts to us and others so all might know of your love, mercy, and grace. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Welcome and Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian* Glyncannon

*** Call to Worship**

How glorious it is to be in the temple of God, for indeed the whole world is God's tabernacle.

We are welcomed by God into this special place of worship not surrounded by walls.

What a revelation! The church we are in today has been here all along because we the people are the church!

For where we worship, God is there also.

Together let us pray.

O God, if you were to mark the extent of our iniquity, who could stand before you? Yet, you do not forsake us, yet you shower us with blessings. In Jesus Christ, we receive the gift of inheritance into his household. We are called to be Christ's people, the church. We praise you; we give thanks to you; we stand to honor you, O God of redeeming grace.

In the name of Jesus Christ, let us worship God.

Trio *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* Bateman
Spanish folk melody

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Holy God, we see the state of the world and often find fault with world leaders and systems of oppression. How often we wring our hands about the illness and sickness in the world, and ask the question, "But what can we do?" How often we think to ourselves, and rarely say out loud, "Why is God bringing about such suffering in times like these?" In this moment as we pause and reflect, help us to discern where just a portion of the responsibility lies with us.

Remind us we are accountable for not binding up the ills of this world as you have given us authority to do. Let us look at how we treat our bodies when you call them our temples. Bring to us an understanding that your ways are not our ways. Give us the eyes of your heart to see your will and may our actions reflect your ways. Help us to heal and keep our corner of the world in faith and prayer. Give us your vision to see the beauty of your creation and not our gloomy vision of the world. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Summary of the Law

"'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.'" **Matthew 22:37-39**

Prayer of Illumination

Lesson Matthew 20:1-16a

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

Sermon *Seeing With the Heart of God* The Rev. Edward Bellis

***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,