

Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 27, 2019

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Good and gracious God,
you promise to pour out your Spirit upon us;
you are the hope of the world.
Give us strength, that we might serve you;
make us humble, that we might live for your glory alone.
In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Just as I Am

Robin Dinda

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God formed us into beings,
breathing life into the dust of the earth.

**God formed us into the church,
breathing life into human community.**

Let us keep our hearts open to the leading of Christ;
let us keep our minds open to the movement of the Spirit,

For God is not finished forming and re-forming.

We are the church, who has been reformed.
We are the church, always being reformed.

Let us worship the living God!

*SONG OF PRAISE

Here in This Place

Hymnal, No. 401

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**Holy One, Holy Three,
the voice of Christ beckons us to follow,
but we cannot hear his voice over the noise we have created.**

**You call us to hope, but we choose fear,
for we would rather be safe than risk being faithful.**

**You offer us freedom, but we choose independence,
pretending that we have ultimate control.**

**You offer us life, but we find ourselves perishing,
buried by the burdens we refuse to share.**

Forgive us, God of life.

Heal us, and bring us peace.

(Time of silent reflection)

*THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*SONG OF RESPONSE Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Hymnal, No. 582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Larry Upton

SCRIPTURE READING

Joel 2:23-32

Page No. 741

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 65

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; and to you shall vows be performed,

O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come.

When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions.

Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might.

You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.

Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.

You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,

the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain,

they shout and sing together for joy.

ANTHEM

Bless the Lord

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 18:9-14

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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MESSAGE

Standing Far Off

Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH

Spirit of the Living God

Hymnal, No.288

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH A Litany for Reformation Sunday

One:

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

ALL:

**We confess and acknowledge one God alone,
distinct in three persons:
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,
to whom alone we must cleave,
and in whom alone we put our trust.**

Choir:

We believe that,
we belong – body and soul, in life and in death –
not to ourselves but to our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

Men:

We believe that,
all things are governed by the Providence of God.

Women:

We believe that,
the Lord our God was pleased to make
a second covenant of grace, wherein he freely
offered unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ.

One:

We believe that,
the chief end of humankind is to glorify God,
and to enjoy God forever.

ALL:

**We believe that there is but one only, the living and true God.
God is a Spirit, in and of himself infinite in being,**

**glory, blessedness and perfection, all-sufficient,
eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible,
everywhere present, almighty,
knowing all things, most wise, most holy,
most just, most merciful and gracious,
long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.**

Choir:

The church's commission, upon which its freedom is founded, consists in delivering the message of the free grace of God to all people in Christ's stead, and therefore in the ministry of his own Word and work through sermon and Sacrament.

Men:

We believe that, the life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission.

Women:

We believe that unity is both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ. Through the work of God's Spirit, unity is a binding force. At the same time, unity must be earnestly pursued and sought. Our unity must become visible to the world.

One:

We believe that separation and hatred between people and groups is sin, already conquered by Christ. Anything threatening our unity has no place in the church.

ALL:

**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 be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Response:... God our Savior, **hear our prayer**

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 35

(You are invited to pray the Lord's Prayer in the language of your choosing)

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

When Love is Found

Emma Lou Diemer

*DOXOLOGY

Know That God Is Good

Hymnal, No. 659

Know that God is good. Know that God is good.

Know that God is good; God is good; God is good.

Halle, hallelujah. Halle, hallelujah.

Halle, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

*DEDICATION PRAYER

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG Fight the Good Fight Hymnal, No. 846

*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING AND CHARGE
 CHORAL BENEDICTION By Law God Enforces

*POSTLUDE Fight the Good Fight Wilbur Held

*Please rise in body or spirit.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

Lectionary Readings for November 3: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 119: 137-144; 2 Thesalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10.

The **Food & Shelter** item of the month for October is **soup**. Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.

Hearing-assistance devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the head usher.

Ushers for today's service are Jo Beth Bailey and Linda Eckel.

There will be a **Called Congregational Meeting following worship today for the purpose of electing officers for the class of 2023. The Nominating Committee will present the slate of officers for Session: Solange Bobga, Alice Lanning and Michael Yeager. For Deacon: Susan Beck, Lisa Upton and Donna Vint Wright. Nominations from the floor are always allowed.**

There will be an All Saints Day service on November 3. You are invited to a brief **remembrance service** at our columbarium following worship. Information about inurnment will be available at that time.

Next weekend is **Daylight Savings** Time. Be sure to set your clock back one hour on Saturday!

SUNDAY**October 27**

- 9:30 A.M. – Sunday School
- 10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments
- 10:55 A.M. – Worship Service
- 12:00 P.M. – Called Congregational Meeting

WEDNESDAY**October 30**

- 3:15 P.M. – Kids' Club
- 5:00 P.M. – Children's Choir
- 6:30 P.M. – Chancel Choir

SUNDAY**November 3**

- 9:30 A.M. – Sunday School
- 10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments
- 10:55 A.M. – Worship Service
- 12:00 p.m. – Columbarium Service

KNOWN JOYS & CONCERNS

Those who seek healing

Lola Carroll
Sandy Clarke
Jan Cunningham
Jim Eckel
Laura Eckel
Doug Forsyth
Alice Lanning
Jayelle Martin
Gene Thraikill
Jona Thiessen
Devyn Upton
Karen Upton
Janann Yeager
Darrell Hinson (Karen Upton's father)
Paul Gallagher (Karen Upton's biological father)
Carole Jo Evans (Tracy Evans' mother)

Those who Experienced Recent Loss

John Beck whose mother Mary Jean died on August 19.

Seminary Graduate

Samuel McCann, Pittsburgh Theo. Seminary

We lift up in prayer the country of Cameroon and pray for the unrest our brothers and sisters are experiencing there.

Birthdays

October 28– Stephen Wurst

Anniversaries

November 3– Tim & Georjana Mauldin

As part of the **ecumenical prayer cycle**, we ask you to pray for a particular region of the world each week:

Canada, United States of America

We are **thankful** for:

- the vast expanse of North America with its resources and varied landscapes; may they be preserved, enjoyed and used wisely
- those who were its original inhabitants – First Nations and Native Americans
- church-related organizations that strongly advocate for justice, and those that provide for new immigrants and refugees today, as well as for others who are poor and vulnerable
- ecumenical and interfaith engagements which are occurring in many communities that previously were mainly white and Christian.

We **pray** for:

- churches facing new challenges, that they may continue to witness boldly to the gospel in evolving multicultural, multireligious and secular contexts
- indigenous peoples in their long struggles for survival, land and rights; and for ongoing healing and reconciliation with those who have come after them
- new immigrants, that they will continue to be welcomed in these countries, and that policies will serve the common good
- effectively countering systemic greed that exploits communities and natural resources
- government leaders that they would advance justice, human rights, and peace for all within these countries and in the rest of the world.