

Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 5, 2021

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Direct and help us, O Lord,
in all our deeds,
that in all our works
begun, continued, and ended in you,
we may glorify your holy name,
and finally, by your mercy,
obtain everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Janelle Crane, Guest Pianist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Vince Leseney

The eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

**The lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.**

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert.

**The burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.**

*SONG OF PRAISE

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

Hymnal, No. 494

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

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

**You are the Bread of Life, O God,
and you promise that we will never hunger again,
but we do hunger, O Lord, and often for the wrong things.
You feed us with grace, but we hunger for achievements.
You offer us peace, but we hunger for control.
You bless us with plenty to share,
but we are quick to hoard the gifts we call ours.
Forgive us, O Bread of Life, and by your forgiveness
teach us to hunger for things that you do:
to hunger for justice, to long for equality,
to work for the common good
until none of your children have to hunger for bread.**
(Time of silent reflection)

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

*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 Be to the Father

Hymnal, No. 581

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

John Beck

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Page No. 578

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalms 146

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

SCRIPTURE READING

James 2:1-17

Page No. 981

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

The Greatest Mercy

Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH

Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation

Hymnal, No. 503

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Response:... God of abundant grace, **hear our prayer.**

SEALING THE WORD—CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE OFFERING

The offering plates are in the narthex.

*You are invited to make an offering as you depart today; those who are worshipping
with us on-line will find information on giving on the church website,
www.memorialpres.org.*

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God:
You come with power to judge and save us,
destroying the works of the wicked
and delivering the poor from their distress.
Therefore we praise you, joining the song
of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

...Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, p. 35

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG

I Come with Joy

Hymnal, No. 515

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE

*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 September 12: Semicontinuous: Proverbs 1:23-33 and Psalm 19; Complementary: Isaiah 50:4-9a and Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38.

We are truly grateful for you joining us today, in person or via live streaming. This is new for us all, and we thank you for your patience with this new way. We will be adapting and changing in the next few weeks as we work together to worship with devotion and safety protocols. If you have comments or suggestions, please let the pastor or a worship committee member know.

Food & Shelter items are being collected in the box outside the office.

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

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Response to Hurricane IDA

Today at Noon CDT, PDA will give a quick update on "Between Two Pulpits," a Facebook live program from the office of Special Offerings. We will share it on our facebook page, www.facebook.com/PDACares

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is using account DR000169 for a response for Hurricane Ida relief. Here is the online giving page, which also has information on how to give by phone or mail:

<https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000169/>

or

pcusa.info/ida



If you or your church would prefer to donate to the effort specifically in the Presbytery of South Louisiana, go to <https://www.pbysouthla.org> and find **CLICK HERE TO GIVE** on the website banner.



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Here is a Presbyterian News Service article published yesterday:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/presbyterians-ready-to-help-the-gulf-coast-recover-from-hurricane-ida/>

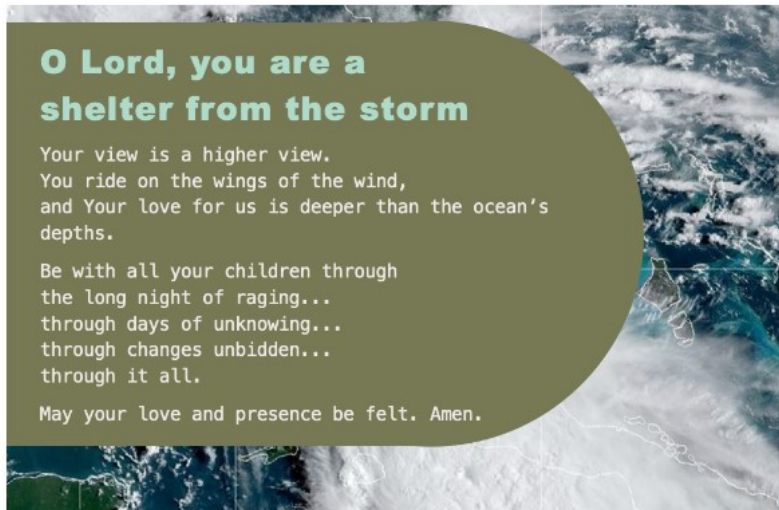
There will be more articles coming this week as we get reports and assessments.

O Lord, you are a shelter from the storm

Your view is a higher view.
You ride on the wings of the wind,
and Your love for us is deeper than the ocean's depths.

Be with all your children through
the long night of raging...
through days of unknowing...
through changes unbidden...
through it all.

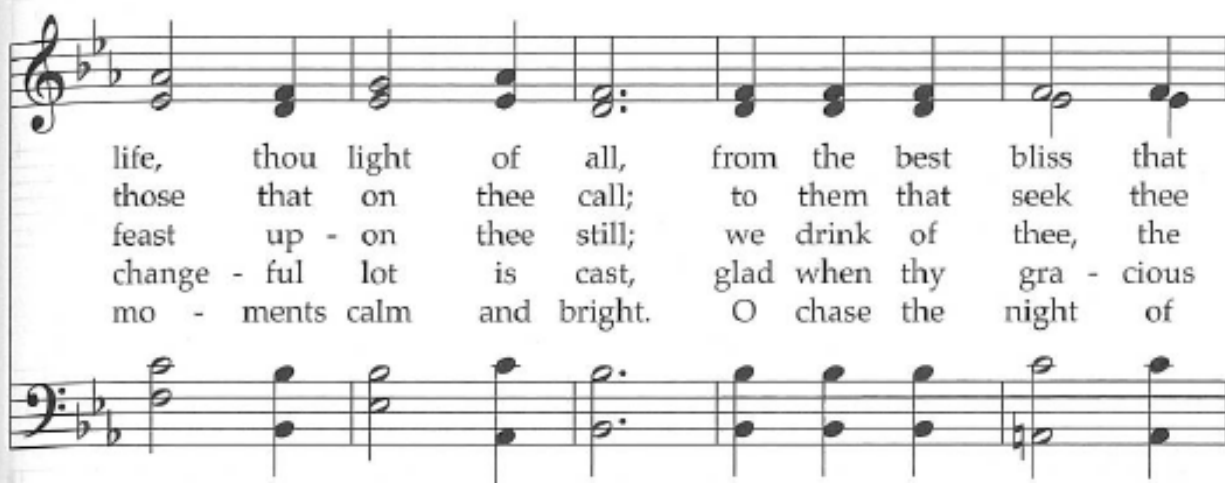
May your love and presence be felt. Amen.



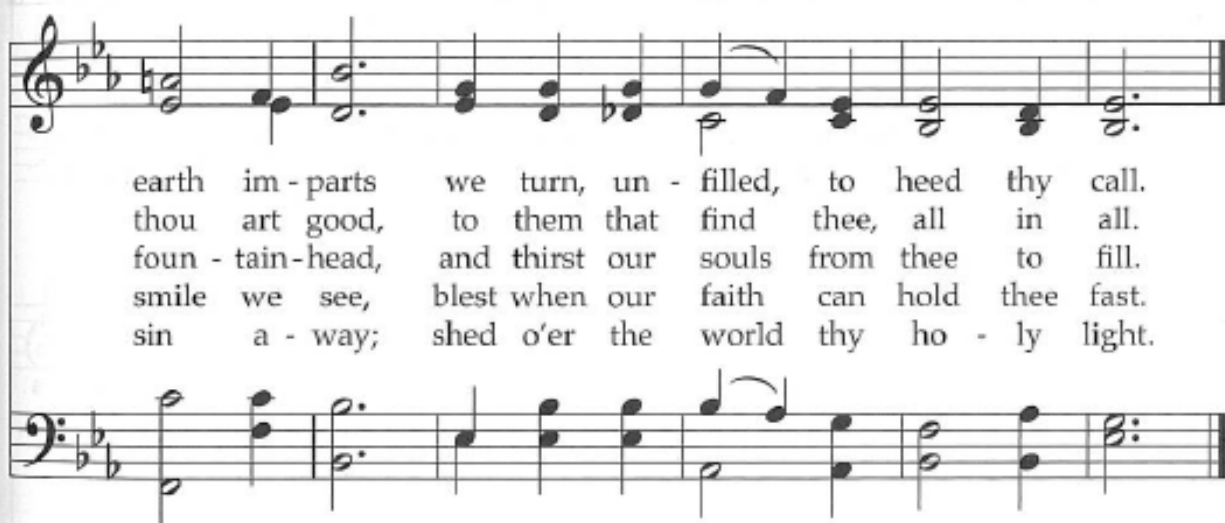
Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts 494



1 Je - sus, thou joy of lov - ing hearts, thou fount of
2 Thy truth un - changed hath ev - er stood; thou sav - est
3 We taste thee, O thou liv - ing bread, and long to
4 Our rest - less spir - its yearn for thee, wher - e'er our
5 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay; make all our



life, thou light of all, from the best bliss that
those that on thee call; to them that seek thee
feast up - on thee still; we drink of thee, the
change - ful lot is cast, glad when thy gra - cious
mo - ments calm and bright. O chase the night of



earth im - parts we turn, un - filled, to heed thy call.
thou art good, to them that find thee, all in all.
foun - tain - head, and thirst our souls from thee to fill.
smile we see, blest when our faith can hold thee fast.
sin a - way; shed o'er the world thy ho - ly light.

Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation

503

1 Lord, we have come at your own in - vi - ta - tion,
2 Here, at your ta - ble, con - firm our in - ten - tion;
3 When, at your ta - ble, each time of re - turn - ing,

cho - sen by you, to be count - ed your friends;
give it your seal of for - give - ness and grace;
vows are re - newed and our cour - age re - stored,

yours is the strength that sus - tains ded - i - ca - tion;
teach us to serve with - out pride or pre - ten - sion,
may we in - creas - ing - ly glo - ry in learn - ing

ours, a com - mit - ment we know nev - er ends.
Lord, in your king - dom, what - ev - er our place.
all that it means to ac - cept you as Lord.

I Come with Joy

515

Capo 3: (D) (G) (A) (D) (Bm)
F B \flat C F Dm



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris-tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has

(Asus) (Am) (G) (F \sharp m) (D)
Csus Cm B \flat Am F



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

(Em) (D/F \sharp) (G) (A) (Am7) (D)
Gm F/A B \flat C Cm7 F



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.