

# Memorial Presbyterian Church

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 19, 2021

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Almighty God,  
you created the heavens and the earth,  
and humankind in your image.  
Teach us to discern your hand in all your works  
and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Spirit, Open my Heart Alfred Fedak  
David Marvel, Organist

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Vince Leseney

When the world around us seems to be shaking,  
**God's love is our foothold, which shall not be moved.**  
When the life within us is dry and parched,  
**God's word is our wellspring, our fount of living water.**  
Let us worship the One who offers us wisdom  
**and teaches us how to serve.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth Hymnal, No. 7

\*CONFESSION AND PARDON

**You told us, O Lord, that whoever wants to be first  
must be last and servant of all.  
Oh, how we long to be first, O God:  
to climb every ladder, frame every achievement,  
get every promotion, and obtain every glory.  
Oh, how we long to be first, O God,  
and oh, how we dread being last.  
Forgive us, O humble Christ,  
and by your forgiveness, teach us.  
Teach us to reframe our priorities.  
Teach us to be servants first,  
and to let our lives flow from a heart of faith.**  
*(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

Alice Lanning

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 11:18-20

Page No. 622

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalms 54

Save me, O God, by your name, and vindicate me by your might.

**Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.**

For the insolent have risen against me, the ruthless seek my life; they do not set God before them. Selah

**But surely, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.**

He will repay my enemies for their evil. In your faithfulness, put an end to them.

**With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O Lord, for it is good.**

For he has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

MOMENT FOR MISSION

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 9:30-37

Page No. 821

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Who Is The Greatest?

Tracy Evans

\*SONG OF FAITH

Blessed Assurance

Hymnal, No. 839

\*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.**  
The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 35

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](http://www.memorialpres.org).*

**FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

\*SENDING SONG      Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor      Hymnal, No. 342

\*BLESSING AND CHARGE

\*POSTLUDE      O God, You are my God Alone      Mary Kay Beall

\*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 26: Semicontinuous: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22 and Psalm 124 Complementary: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 and Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13-20; Mark -:38-50.

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 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.

# Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth 7



1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright  
2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing  
3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - turing one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - ery  
me your food of light, grain of life, and grape of  
pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and



breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.  
love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.  
grow un - til I flower, un - til I know.

# 839 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

1 Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a  
 2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, - per - fect de - light, vi - sions of  
 3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest; I in my

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion,  
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; an - gels de - scend - ing,  
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blest, watch - ing and wait - ing,

pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.  
 bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.  
 look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

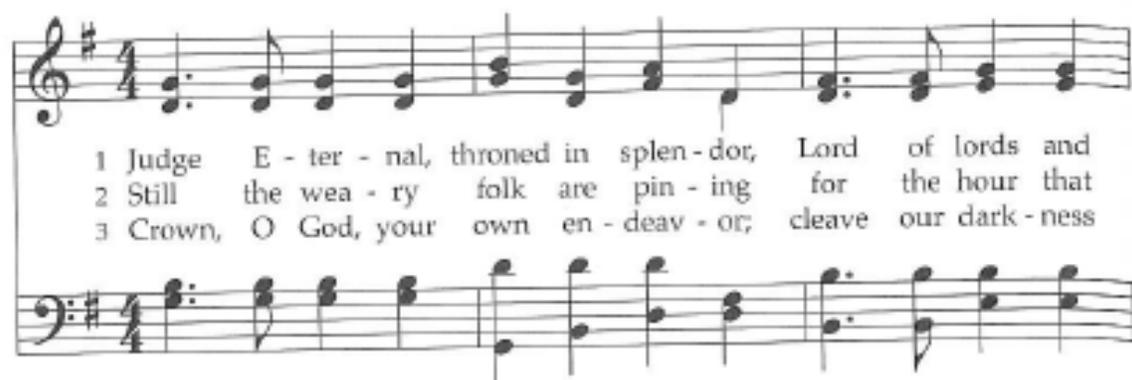
## Refrain

This is my sto - ry; this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior

all the day long; this is my sto - ry; this is my

song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

# 342 Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor



1 Judge E - ter - nal, throned in splen - dor, Lord of lords and  
2 Still the wea - ry folk are pin - ing for the hour that  
3 Crown, O God, your own en - deav - or; cleave our dark - ness



King of kings, with your liv - ing fire of judg - ment  
brings re - lease, and the cit - y's crowd - ed clang - or  
with your sword; feed the faith - less and the hun - gry



purge this land of bit - ter things; so - lace all its  
cries a - loud for sin to cease, and the home - steads  
with the rich - ness of your word; cleanse the bod - y



wide do - min - ion with the heal - ing of your wings.  
and the wood - lands plead in si - lence for their peace.  
of this na - tion through the glo - ry of the Lord.