

Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

God of love, we follow Jesus, and yet we are not always sure who he is. Open our hearts to listen and come to know him more deeply, to know his presence and be known, and so to draw nearer to you. By your grace we listen for your Living Word. Amen.

PRELUDE Prelude on Slane H. Leonard

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP Nick Lindley

In a time of bitterness and pain,
**God raised up Moses,
and changed the lives of a people.**
From the shadow of death,
**God raised up Jesus,
and changed the lives of all people.**
In every time, and in every place,
**God raises up witnesses,
people whose lives are changed forever.**

*SONG OF PRAISE Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty Hymnal, No. 403

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

God of truth, like a moth that gnaws at wool, our brokenness eats away at our souls. We allow the cacophony of greed, selfishness, apathy and ignorance to drown out your voice as you call us to see the suffering in our world and respond to the needs of your children. In our busy lives, we convince ourselves that there is no time to help, no space for prayer and no need for justice. Forgive us. Remind us that only when we slow down and breathe deeply of your Holy Spirit and holy Word can our ears hear your voice. Inspire us to greater love for you and for one another. Amen.
(Time for silent reflection)

The prophet Isaiah wrote, "Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me." Jesus promised, "I will give you the keys to the kingdom." We know love and forgiveness because God first loved us and has been calling out to us forever, "You are my beloved!" May we respond to such abundant grace with deep gratitude for God's unending forgiveness

God loves me, heals me, strengthens me and calls me by name. Through Jesus I am made whole! Thanks be to God!

*THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Glory to God

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 (x3)
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE READING

Page No. 922

Romans 12:1-8

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalms 138

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

**I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your
steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and
your word above everything.**

On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

**All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the
words of your mouth.**

They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.

**For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he per-
ceives from far away.**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my en-
emies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

**The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures
forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 16:13-20

Page No. 798

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Who?

Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH

To Abraham and Sarah

Hymnal, No. 51

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from The Confession of 1967

**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.
 The church follows this pattern
 in the form of its life
 and in the method of its action.
 So to live and serve
 is to confess Christ as Lord.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, p. 35

*Please pray the Lord's Prayer
 in the language and wording most familiar to you.*

THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Give Thanks

Hymnal, No. 647

Give thanks with a grateful heart;
 Give thanks to the Holy One;
 Give thanks because we're given
 Jesus Christ, the Son. (repeat)

And now let the weak say, "We are strong";
 Let the poor say, "We are rich
 because of what the Lord has done for us!" (repeat)

Give thanks. Give thanks.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG May the God of Hope Go with Us (sing 2x) Hymnal, No. 765

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE

Vivace in A Major

G. F. Handel

*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. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

Lectionary Readings for August 30: Exodus 3:1-15 and Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Jeremiah 15:15-21 and Psalm 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28.

The Food & Shelter items **for August are ibuprofen and deodorant**. Please place your donations in the box by the coffee and snacks.