

Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

Spirit of mercy,
we come to your fountain of forgiveness to begin again.
You offer a fresh drink, a new life.
Though we are often critical of others and of ourselves,
help us to accept that we are accepted.
Meet us here in ways that we can understand,
that we may be filled with the life
only you can offer. Amen.

PRELUDE

Processional

David Johnson

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lucy Lanning

We bow with the rolling rocks.

God is our strength and our salvation.

We sing with the roaring rivers.

God is our justice and our joy.

We will never stop telling God's story.

God is the hope of our ancestors.

With all that we have and all that we are, we say:

God is so good!

*SONG OF PRAISE God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us Hymnal, No. 436

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

**Nurturing God,
like a hen gathers her brood under her wings,
you desire to gather your children.
But division and disagreement plague us.
We cling to rigid certainties,
approach each other in arrogance,
and fail to listen.
We walk away from conflict,
rather than working through it.
Forgive us, Holy God.
Help us grow in faith, mature in relationship,
and be transformed through your steadfast love.
Amen.**

(Time for silent reflection)

People of God, hear and believe:

God does not deal with us according to our sins,
but according to God's own steadfast love for us.

**As far as the east is from the west,
so far God removes our sins from us.
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. 916

Romans 4:1-12

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalms 103:8-13

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

ANTHEM

Merciful God

Craig Courtney

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 18:21-35

Page No. 800

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Debts and Debtors

Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH

Help Us Accept Each Other

Hymnal, No. 754

*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**
(Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39)

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

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Hymnal, No. 435

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE

March in D

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 September 20: Exodus 16:2-15 and Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Jonah 3:10-4:11 and Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16.

The Food & Shelter items **for September are individually packaged snacks and razors**. Please place your donations in the box by the coffee and snacks.

There will be a congregational meeting being held today immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect new officers (elders & deacons) for the Class of 2029.

The proposed slate of officers: For session class of 2029 - Lucy Lanning and John Beck. For deacons class of 2029 - Mike Cole and Lisa Upton