Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

22nd Sunday after Pentecost **October 25, 2026**

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP
God of love and mercy, we love because you first loved us.
Open our hearts to your love as we listen for your Word.
May the light of your love fill us, warm us, re-shape us,
and empower us to love,
in the name and the Spirit of Christ. Amen.

PRELUDE Prelude on All Creatures of Our God and King Arr. Jan Sanborn

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP Lucy Lanning

We gather here to worship God.
We are here, with heart, soul and mind.
We gather here as Christ's body.
We are neighbors, learning how to love each other.
The Holy Spirit gathers us in to be sent out again.
We are here to worship and to be transformed.
Let us worship the Triune God!

*SONG OF PRAISE Come Sing, O Church, in Joy! Hymnal, No. 305

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Holy God, we are often good at following rules while neglecting the heart of your commandments. We place ourselves in the congregation of the righteous, but take our seat among the scoffers. We seek approval of our friends, family, and others whose opinions we value, forgetting that our call is to please you, above all.

You call us to be holy, but we settle for self-righteousness.
You call us to be impartial, but we cannot shed our biases.
You call us to love our neighbors,
but we have been satisfied to keep them at arm's length.

You created us to love you with soul, heart, and mind,
but we have held parts of ourselves back.

Have mercy on us, God. Watch over our ways, redirect our paths, and help us love you with abandon — heart, soul, and mind. Make us instruments of reconciliation and transformation as we seek to follow your law of love, made known to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Time for silent reflection)

*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. 959

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM Psalm 1

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

ANTHEM Jubilate, Sing Praise! Diane Hannibal

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 22: 34-46 Page No. 804

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE What's Love Got to Do with It? Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH Love the Lord Your God Hymnal, No. 62

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

What is the greatest commandment?

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

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 More Love to Thee, O Christ Hymnal, No. 828

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE Postlude on Sing to the Lord of Harvest Arr. Jan Sanborn

*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 November 1: Joshua 3:7-17 and Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Micah 3:5-12 and Psalm 43; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12.

The Food & Shelter items of the month for October are reading glasses and Gatorade**. Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.**