



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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ORDER FOR WORSHIP THE 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

PRELUDES

St. Elizabeth -- Cooman
Amazing Grace -- Beck/Linker
Herr Gott, dich loben alle wir -- Pachelbel

GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Give Me Jesus -- Lau

CALL TO WORSHIP

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.
God's steadfast love endures forever.

Let every tongue confess the good news:
Jesus Christ is Lord; glory be to God!

HYMN – “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

**Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
God, whose word cannot be broken, Formed thee for a blest abode.
On the rock of ages founded, What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.**

**See, the streams of living waters, Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river Ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.**

**Round each habitation hovering, See the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a covering, Showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna Which God gives them when they pray.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of our salvation,
we falter before the demands of your word
and turn away from your call to life.
Pour out your mercy on us
as you showed mercy to your people of old,
that we may turn from our
sinfulness and walk the path of self-emptying love
made known in Jesus Christ. AMEN**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE TO PARDON – “Gloria Patri”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN, AMEN.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Holy God,
as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed,
send your Holy Spirit to blow through our hearts and minds
with new meaning and insight for us.
Transform us with your life-giving fire,
that we may be vessels of your world-changing power. AMEN**

FIRST LESSON – Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The word of the LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

SECOND LESSON – Matthew 21:23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?’ Jesus said to them, ‘I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?’ And they argued with one another, ‘If we say, “From heaven”, he will say to us, “Why then did you not believe him?” But if we say, “Of human origin”, we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.’ So they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’ And he said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

‘What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go. Which of the two

did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

SERMON – “Actions or Empty Words” – Rev. Lorenz

HYMN – “’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

**’Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take him at his word,
just to rest upon his promise, just to know, “Thus saith the Lord.”**

(Refrain)

**Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I’ve proved him o’er and o’er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more!**

**O how sweet to trust in Jesus, just to trust his cleansing blood,
just in simple faith to plunge me ‘neath the healing, cleansing flood!**

(Refrain)

**Yes, ’tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just from sin and self to cease,
just from Jesus simply taking life and rest, and joy and peace.**

(Refrain)

**I’m so glad I learned to trust thee, precious Jesus, Savior, Friend,
and I know that thou art with me, wilt be with me to the end.**

(Refrain)

THE APOSTLES’ CREED (traditional)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. AMEN**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING OURSELVES

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Merciful and gracious God,
you abound in steadfast love and faithfulness.
With gratitude, we bring our gifts to you.
Bless our gifts and bless our lives
that together we may share your mercy and grace
with the world you dearly love. AMEN**

HYMN – “Fairest Lord Jesus”

**Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God to earth come down,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul’s glory, joy and crown.**

**Fair are the meadows, Fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine, Fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling, starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer,
Thank all the angels heaven can boast.**

BENEDICTION

CLOSING RESPONSE – “Amen”

POSTLUDE – *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* – Tucker

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ANNOUNCEMENTS for September 27, 2020

SERVING TODAY:

Reader: Nancy Jacoby
Ushers: Fred Seltzer, Charlie Thompson, Joe Shane, Anita Ashbaugh
Vocalists: Ron & Deb Richcreek
Camera: Joe Shane
Recorder: Ray Thomas

THIS WEEK, IN OUR PRAYERS:

- * for the church at work: (in the presbyteries of) Cayuga-Syracuse; South Louisiana; Seattle;
(in) the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Hungary
- * for the church: First United (Newville); Rev. Vernon Gauthier
- * for the congregation (at random): Bridger, Kelly, Will & Samuel Thompson

NEXT SUNDAY ————— **18th Sunday after Pentecost** ————— **Oct. 4th**

– **10:45 AM:** Worship (World Communion Sunday)

NOTE: Sunday morning worship continues to be recorded and posted on the church website, church Facebook page, and on YouTube (“Sunday on the Square”) for the convenience of those who cannot worship in-person. To reserve a seat, please call in Wednesdays, beginning 10 AM.

Members of the Congregation, Ministers
The Rev. Anthony D. Lorenz, Pastor
The Rev. Jon A. Black, Pastor Emeritus
Debby Madden, Educator Emerita
Arthur Thompson, Organist
Avis Allen, Administrative Secretary
Chuck Adler, Sexton

(NOTE THE NEW OFFICE HOURS)

Church Administrative Office Hours: Mon. & Wed., 9 AM -2 PM
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