

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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ORDER FOR WORSHIP THE 24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST NOVEMBER 15, 2020

(BOLD indicates Read Together)

GATHERING

PRELUDES

Wiegenlied - Bohn Saint Anne - Manz/Bye/Young

GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Praise and Thanksgiving -- Callahan

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Keep silence before the Lord God!

The day of the Lord is at hand.

HYMN – "For the Beauty of the Earth"

For the beauty of the earth, For the glory of the skies, For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies, Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour Of the day and of the night, Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light, Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's delight, For the mystic harmony Linking sense to sound and sight, Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child, Friends on earth, and friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild, Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

For Thy church that evermore Lifteth holy hands above, Offering up on every shore Her pure sacrifice of love, Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, you have made us stewards of your creation and commissioned us to carry out your work to the best of our ability.

But we have not always served you with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. We withhold our gifts and live in fear. Have mercy upon us, we pray. Make us bold to use our talents for the sake of your kingdom, until you come in glory. AMEN (silent confession)

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.

PROCLAIMING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Lord our God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, and strength to follow on the path you set before us; through Jesus Christ. AMEN

FIRST LESSON - Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

⁷ Be silent before the Lord Gop! For the day of the LORD is at hand: the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. ¹² At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps. and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts. "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." ¹³ Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

(The Word of the Lord; Thanks be to God!)

¹⁴ "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

(The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God!)**

SERMON - Rev. Lorenz

HYMN - "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

God, whose giving knows no ending, From Your rich and endless store, Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, Costly cross, grave's shattered door: Gifted by You, we turn to You, Offering up ourselves in praise; Thankful song shall rise forever, Gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing Toward the goals of Christ, Your Son: All at peace in health and freedom, Races joined, the church made one. Now direct our daily labor, Lest we strive for self alone; Born with talents, make us servants Fit to answer at Your throne.

Treasure too You have entrusted, Gain through powers Your grace conferred; Ours to use for home and kindred, And to spread the gospel Word.

Open wide our hands, in sharing, As we heed Christ's ageless call, Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, Serving You by loving all.

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

GIVING THANKS

OFFERING OURSELVES

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Eternal God, Creator of all things, everything on earth is yours.

We have nothing that can make you richer, for everything comes from your hand.

But what we have we bring – the acknowledgment that we give thanks to you, and that without you we have nothing and can do nothing. Receive and bless these gifts for your holy work, and bless those who offer them to you. AMEN

SENDING

HYMN - "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:

Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received its frame, From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone; Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream, Soon bears us all away; We fly forgotten, as a dream Dies at the opening day.

Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Be Thou our guard while life shall last, And our eternal home.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING RESPONSE - "Amen"

POSTLUDE

For the Beauty of the Earth -- Sobaje



SERVING TODAY:

Reader: Charlie Thompson

Ushers: Bill Beck; Rita Beck; Rick Line; Fred Seltzer

Vocalist: Steve Walker Camera: Joe Shane Recorder: Ray Thomas

THIS WEEK, IN OUR PRAYERS:

* for the church: Krislund Camp

* for the congregation (at random): Bruce & Kathy Mulvey; Jarl Uilkema

THIS WEEK, IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH:

Monday Advent Devotionals due to office

Tuesday, 7 PM Session meets

Wednesday, 6 PM Prayer Community meets

NEXT SUNDAY 25th Sunday after Pentecost November 22, 2020

– 10:45 AM: Worship (Rev. Bill Beck preaching; Thank Offering received)

NOTE: Sunday morning worship continues to be recorded and posted on the church website, church Facebook page, and YouTube ("Sunday on the Square") for the convenience of those who cannot yet worship in-person. To reserve a seat, please call 717-243-4612 on Wednesdays, beginning at 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
Ron Richcreek, Music Director
Avis Allen, Administrative Secretary
Chuck Adler, Sexton

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

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