

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 6, 2020

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in God's Name . . .

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

(for silent prayer during the prelude)

Direct and help us, O Lord, in all our deeds, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.¹ **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM PSALM 149)

One: Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

All: **Let us praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.**

One: For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory.

All: **Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches. Praise the Lord!**

HYMN OF PRAISE: “Just as I Am, Without One Plea” #370

Just as I am, without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou biddest me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I
come, I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about With many a conflict, many a
doubt, Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I
come, I come!

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse,
relieve; Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come,
I come!

Just as I am, Thy love unknown Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I
come!

*CALL TO CONFESSION

The Psalmist provides us good insight when he writes “the Lord takes pleasure in his people, he adorns the humble with victory.” Let us now humbly come before God to confess how we have wronged God and wronged neighbor.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (FROM MATTHEW 18)

Merciful God, we have wronged you and wronged our neighbor by doing what you have commanded us not to do and by failing to do what you have commanded us to do. Many times, our neighbor has remained silent regarding our sin, but other times, they have humbly pointed out our sin — even engaging others to make that sin known to us. Sometimes, we have had hardened hearts unwilling to acknowledge that sin. Grow within us a renewed heart — one that loves you with our entire being and one that loves our neighbor as we love ourself. Open us to recognizing and acknowledging our sin and help us to reconcile ourselves to you and to our neighbor. We pray humbly in the name of our Lord Jesus the Messiah. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON (FROM ROMANS 13)

The Apostle Paul writes, “Let us lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.” Let us follow Paul’s direction but also gain encouragement in his earlier words, “Salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers.” Repent, and know that we are forgiven. Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

. . . to Proclaim God's Word

FIRST READING Exodus 12:1-14 **p. 58**

EPISTLE READING Romans 13:8-14 **p. 162**

***GOSPEL READING** Matthew 18:15-20 **p. 19**

SERMON “Putting on Christ” Rev. Andy Smothers

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*CONFESSION OF FAITH *Heidelberg Catechism* (Questions 31-32)

One: Why is he called “Christ,” meaning “anointed”?

Many: **Because he has been ordained by God the Father and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit to be our chief prophet and teacher who fully reveals to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our deliverance; our only high priest who has delivered us by the one sacrifice of his body, and who continually pleads our cause with the Father; and our eternal king who governs us by his Word and Spirit, and who guards us and keeps us in the freedom he has won for us.**

One: But why are you called a Christian?

Many: **Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in his anointing. I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a free conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for eternity.**

. . . to Give Thanks to God . . .

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (IN UNISON)

Gracious God, you command us to love one another, but this love is not foreign to you. For even in our sinfulness, you sent your very self in the form of Jesus to come and journey with people such as us and to model love to them and to us. He bore our sins on the cross that we might be forgiven and reconciled to you and so that love would prevail. Even in the Holy Trinity, your relationship is so integrated that love must be a part of your very nature. In thankfulness for the

blessings you provide us every day, we offer these tithes for the work of your Kingdom. In the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

... and to Be Sent in God's Name.

CLOSING HYMN: "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" #280
Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

ⁱ Book of Common Worship, 373.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship this morning! As we continue to social distance, we will not be offering child care for a time. Feel free to keep your children in worship — even if they're a bit noisy. You're also welcome to take them into the coatroom. Weather permitting, we do hope to have coffee hour outside this morning.

Our thanks go to our lay reader Helen Stordahl, and pianists Helen Elliott & Phyllis Hammermeister.

Thanks to all those who have served at coffee hour this summer. Some have served more than once. We appreciate all of you! Please consider signing up to provide refreshments for our coffee hour. A signup sheet will be on the table near the food after worship.

Office will be **closed Monday, September 7th** for Labor Day.

Presbyterian Women will meet on **Thursday, September 10th at 10:30 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. Social distancing guidelines will be observed. Hope to see you there.

Office Hours will be Monday through Friday, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, starting **September 14th**.

The **Glorioso Ringers** will begin rehearsals on Monday at 2:00 PM starting **September 14th**.

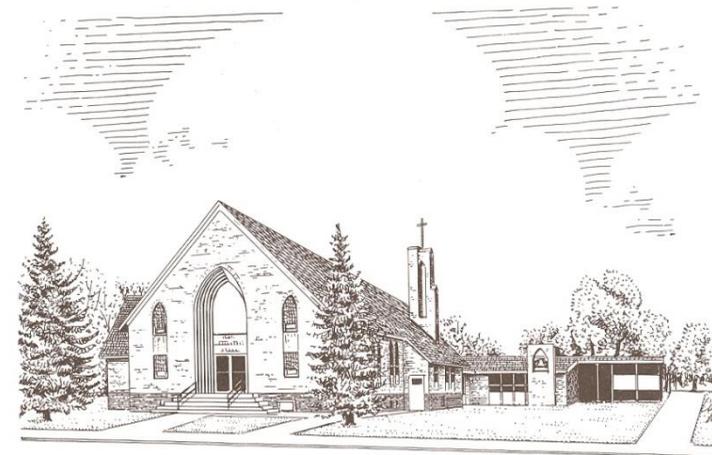
Come and join us on **Wednesday Evenings for Evening Prayer at 6:30 PM**. Several of us join Pastor Andy for scripture readings and reflections, liturgy, prayer, and fellowship.

Reminder from your Pastor Nominating Committee!
We are eagerly awaiting the return of the questionnaires you received as we need input from everyone. Thank you for your time and effort.

If you have any articles to contribute to the **October Newsletter**, please turn them into the office no later than **Wednesday, September 23rd**.

Last week, combined giving was **\$2,081.00**. In order to meet expenses, we need to average **\$2,588.00** per week.

First Presbyterian Church



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