

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 27, 2020

*Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*We Gather in God's Name . . .*

## PRELUDE

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*(for silent prayer during the prelude)*

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment and light rises in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do; that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.<sup>1</sup>  
**Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM PSALM 78)

One: In the sight of our ancestors, the Lord worked marvels

**All: in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan, and even to this day.**

One: He divided the sea and let them pass through it,

**All: and made the water stand like a heap.**

One: In the daytime he led them with a cloud,

**All: and all night long with a fiery light.**

One: He made streams come out of the rock,

**All: and caused waters to flow down like rivers. Let us worship God!**

### HYMN OF PRAISE: "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" #356

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace; Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above; Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I'm come; And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wandering from the fold of God; He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood. O to grace how great to debtor Daily I'm constrained to be! Let that grace now, like a fetter, Bind my wandering heart to Thee: Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love; Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

The Apostle Paul commands us to do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit but in humility to regard others as better than ourselves. The world presses upon us to consume to make our lives better, to promote ourselves and our unique skills, to have pride in the works of our hands, and to fend for ourselves even at cost to others. Let us confess where we allow the world to lead us rather than the ways of our Lord.

### \*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

### \*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God, our righteousness, you command us to consider others even better than ourselves, but we, at times, follow the world's ways in trying to assert ourselves above others. You sent your Son to model humility. Even though he was in the form of God, he was born of human likeness and found in human form. He was obedient for our sake even to the point of death on a cross. He regarded us as worthy of such tremendous sacrifice. We thank you for his willingness to suffer that we might live. Mold us to live a life that reflects his — a life of humility, sacrifice, obedience to you, and dedication to others. Forgive us our sins, and make us new. In the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.**

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

As Jesus tells the Parable of the Two Sons, he states, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you," the chief priests. Entry into God's kingdom is not earned by status or from a life that is ever free from sin but is a free gift from God. Let us be transformed and readied for that kingdom 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 17:1-7 **p. 64**

**EPISTLE READING** Philippians 2:1-13 **p. 197**

**\*GOSPEL READING** Matthew 21:23-32 **p. 23**

**SERMON** "Imitators, Impersonators, and the Real Thing"  
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 37-39)

One: What do you understand by the word "suffered"?

**Many: That during his whole life on earth, but especially at the end, Christ sustained in body and soul the wrath of God against the sin of the whole human race. This he did in order that, by his suffering as the only atoning sacrifice, he might deliver us, body and soul, from eternal condemnation, and gain for us God's grace, righteousness, and eternal life.**

One: Why did he suffer "under Pontius Pilate" as judge?

**Many: So that he, though innocent, might be condemned by an earthly judge, and so free us from the severe judgment of God that was to fall on us.**

One: Is it significant that he was "crucified" instead of dying some other way?

**Many: Yes. By this I am convinced that he shouldered the curse which lay on me, since death by crucifixion was cursed by God.**

*. . . to Give Thanks to God . . .*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION (IN UNISON)**

Almighty God, despite the Israelites' anxiety as they journeyed to the Promised Land from Egypt, you were faithful to them. You led them by a cloud in the day and by a pillar of light in the night. You fed them manna and guided them to water. You remain faithful to us even in this day providing for our needs throughout our days. In thankfulness for your many blessings, we offer these gifts from what you have given us. Bless them, and use them for your work through the church. Amen.

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

**CLOSING HYMN: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" #142**

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall; Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all! Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, Ye ransomed from the fall, Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all! Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe, On this terrestrial ball, To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all! To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall! We'll join the ever lasting song, And crown Him Lord of all! We'll join the ever lasting song, And crown Him Lord of all!

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

<sup>i</sup> Book of Common Worship, 377.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mon. Sept. 28	Handbells	2:00 PM
Wed. Sept. 30	Evening Prayer	6:30 PM

*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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED**

**Our thanks** go to our lay reader Jan Carter, and pianist Juanita Rodriquez.

Please consider **signing up** to provide refreshments for our **Coffee Hour**. A signup sheet will be on the table near the food after worship.

The **Pastor Nominating Committee** continues to invite your answers to the questions they have sent members of our newsletter mailing list. They will, also, meet with anyone interested in providing verbal answers after worship today. Feel free to have a quick snack in Coffee Hour and, then, join them in the sanctuary. Paper copies of the questions are available in the narthex.

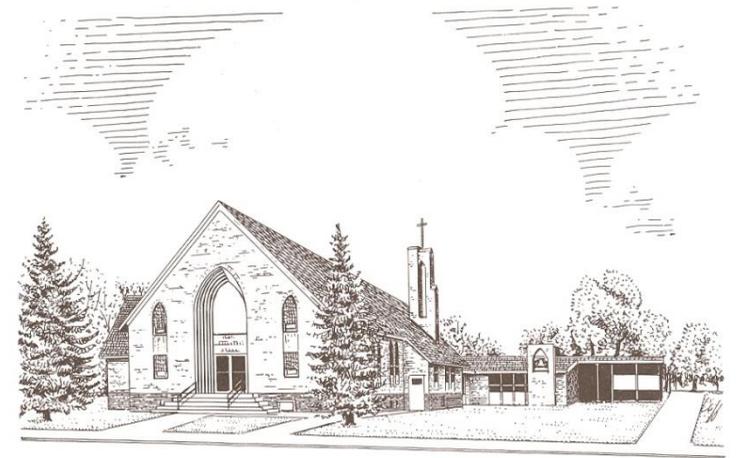
The sidewalk on the east side of the church has become dangerous and needs replacement before winter. Neil Weisgram has estimated the cost to replace at \$4000.00. Donations to compete this project are urgently needed. Please consider helping. Contact any Property Committee member if you have any questions.

I (Pastor Andy) had an opportunity to visit the Food Pantry recently, which I understand was begun by our congregation and benefits from many faithful volunteers. I inquired of the Stordahls whether there are any supplies they particularly need. They would invite your donations of laundry detergent, toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, paper towels, and wet wipes for babies.

If you have any articles to contribute to the **October Newsletter**, please turn them into the office right away.

Last week, combined giving was **\$2,216.00**. In order to meet expenses, we need to average **\$2,588.00** per week.

*First Presbyterian Church*



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