

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 1, 2020

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in God's Name . . .

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

(for silent prayer during the prelude)

Creator God, you have filled the world with beauty. Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him by whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.¹ Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM PSALM 34)

One: We will bless the Lord at all times;

All: his praise shall continually be in our mouths.

One: My soul makes its boast in the Lord;

All: let the humble hear and be glad.

One: O magnify the Lord with me,

All: and let us exalt his name together.

One: The Lord redeems the life of his servants;

All: none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned. Let us worship God.

HYMN OF PRAISE: “Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim”

#477

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim, And publish abroad His wonderful name; The name all victorious of Jesus extol; His kingdom is glorious, He rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save; And still He is nigh His presence we have; The great congregation His triumph shall sing, As cribbing salvation to Jesus our King.

“Salvation to God, who sits on the throne,” Let all cry aloud, and

honor the Son; The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim, Fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore, and give Him His right, All glory and power, all wisdom and might, All honor and blessing, with angels above, And thanks never ceasing, and infinite love.

*CALL TO CONFESSION (BASED ON REVELATION 7)

God calls us to transformation — to become ready for the Kingdom of Heaven where hunger and thirst will be no more, where the sun will not strike us nor any scorching heat, and where God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. Let us confess our sin that we may be made ready for God’s Kingdom.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and merciful God, John writes in Revelation that he looked, and there before him was “a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages,” standing before God’s throne and before the Lamb worshipping him. While we long for the Kingdom of Heaven, we fall very short of making it true in our world today. Our nation, the church in its history, and each of us have excluded people inappropriately. We have a tendency to associate with people who think like us, look like us, and behave like us. We have excluded people with different abilities, different skin colors, different national origins, and a multitude of other factors. Forgive our shortsightedness, and renew our hearts that we might look for all to include in your kingdom as it comes into existence here on earth. We pray this in the name of the one who came down from heaven in human form — a nature very different from his own — to lead, teach, and bring salvation to each of us. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

John writes in his epistle, “See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are... Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not been yet revealed.” Receive God’s love and into God’s family. Repent and know that you 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 Revelation 7:9-17 **p. 249**

EPISTLE READING 1 John 3:1-3 **p. 240**

***GOSPEL READING** Matthew 5:1-12 **p. 4**

SERMON “A Heavenly Multitude” 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* (Question 50-52)

One: Why the next words {in the creed}: “and is seated at the right hand of God”?

Many: Because Christ ascended to heaven to show there that he is head of his church, the one through whom the Father rules all things.

One: How does this glory of Christ our head benefit us?

Many: First, through his Holy Spirit he pours out gifts from heaven upon us his members. Second, by his power he defends us and keeps us safe from all enemies.

One: How does Christ’s return “to judge the living and the dead” comfort you?

Many: In all distress and persecution, with uplifted head, I confidently await the very judge who has already offered himself to the judgment of God in my place and removed the whole curse from me. Christ will cast all his enemies and mine into everlasting condemnation, but will take me and all his chosen ones to himself into the joy and glory of heaven.

One: What further benefit do we receive from Christ’s sacrifice and death on the cross?

Many: By Christ’s power our old selves are crucified, put to death, and buried with him, so that the evil desires of the flesh may no longer rule us, but that instead we may offer ourselves as a sacrifice of gratitude to him.

... to Give Thanks to God ...

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (IN UNISON)

Gracious God, you love us so that despite our sinfulness, you are willing to call us children of God. Despite the state of your fallen creation — a creation you intended for beauty and harmony — you are working to redeem and restore it such that the effects of sin we experience today will be no more. In thankfulness for all that you offer us, we offer these tithes for the building of that kingdom through your church in the name of the head of your church, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

CLOSING HYMN: "Blessing and Honor" #147

Blessing and honor and glory and power, Wisdom and riches and strength evermore, Give we to Christ who our battle has won, Whose are the kingdom, the crown, and the throne.

Hear through the heavens the sound of the Name, While rings the earth with Christ's glory and fame; Ocean and mountain, stream, forest, and flower Echo these praises and tell of God's power.

Ever ascending the song and the prayer; Ever descending the love that we share; Blessing and honor and glory and praise This is the theme of the hymns that we raise.

Give we the glory and praise to the Lamb; Take we the robe and the harp and the palm; Sing we the song of the Lamb that was slain, Dying in weakness but rising to reign.

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

¹ Book of Common Worship, 384.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wed. Nov. 4 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 organist Ernestine Olson.

Due to the spike in COVID-19 cases in our area, we regretfully will not have coffee hour today. The Session and/or the COVID-19 Task Force will be evaluating whether to have coffee hour in future weeks.

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.

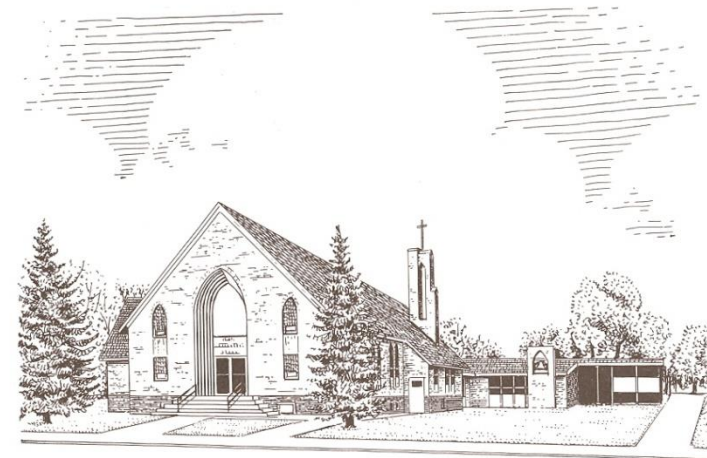
Just a reminder from the **Property Committee**, please make sure that all doors of the church are securely closed and locked as well as making sure that all lights in the building are turned off after any use of the building. We would very much appreciate this.

The Conrad/Brady Christmas Tree program will happen again this year, but there are several changes due to COVID-19. Details are available at www.ConradFirstPres.org/giving-tree. This year, we need to provide an indication of the number of givers in advance. If you would like to give gifts through this community program, please contact Wendi in the church office, or sign up on the sign up sheet in the Narthex by November 10th. Gift tags will be distributed by Saturday, November 21st, and gifts are due at the CENTROL shop no later than Sunday morning, December 20th. To receive gifts, please register by November 13th by calling 627-2465, 627-2433, or 788-4880.

If you have names to be included in the **Remembrance Service** on November 22nd, please call them in to the church office no later than November 19th.

Last week, combined giving was **\$2,536.00**. In order to meet expenses, we need to average **\$2,588.00** per week.

First Presbyterian Church



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