

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 8, 2020

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in God's Name . . .

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

(for silent prayer during the prelude)

O God, your blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of evil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life. Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.¹ Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM PSALM 78)

One: The Lord teaches in parables and dark sayings of old — things that our ancestors have told us.

All: We will not hide them from the children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

One: He established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel,

All: which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children;

One: that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children,

All: so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments. Let us worship God.

HYMN OF PRAISE: “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?” #11

O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You a right? Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart's delight! O kindle,

Lord most holy, A lamp within my breast, To do in spirit lowly
All that may please You best.

Love cause Your incarnation, Love brought You down to me; Your
thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty. O love beyond all
telling, That led You to embrace In love all loves excelling Our
lost and fallen race.

A glorious crown You give me, A treasure safe on high, That will
not fail nor leave me As earthly riches fly. My heart shall bloom
forever For You with praises new, And from Your name shall
never Withhold the honor due.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Joshua told the Israelites that long ago, their ancestors — Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor — served other gods. God took Abraham and led him to the land of Canaan and made himself known and made Abraham's offspring many. Likewise, our ancestors once worshipped other gods, and God made himself known and made their offspring many. Let us renew our commitment to God and confess our sins.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we, as our ancestors, are prone to worship and serve gods other than you, the Almighty One. You created all that is around us, but we find ourselves worshipping the creation, the work of people of this world, dreams from our own minds, and the work of our hands. We place a multitude of things before you, O God. Forgive us for serving and worshipping anything other than you, and transform us to serve you alone. In the name of the one who served you without fail, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

A promise of God to us is that for those who believe that Jesus died and rose again, God will bring with Jesus those who have died through Jesus. Believe in the resurrection, allow God to reform you, 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 Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 **p. 215**

EPISTLE READING 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 **p. 204**

***GOSPEL READING** Matthew 25:1-13 **p. 28**

SERMON “Whom Will You Serve?” 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 53)

One: What do you believe concerning “the Holy Spirit”?

Many: First, that the Spirit, with the Father and the Son, is eternal God. Second, that the Spirit is given also to me, so that, through true faith, he makes me share in Christ and all his benefits, comforts me, and will remain with me forever.

. . . to Give Thanks to God . . .

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (IN UNISON)

Merciful God, despite that the Israelites failed on many occasions to worship you and follow your ways, you were faithful to them. You continue to be faithful to us despite our failures, and we long for your transformation of us into what you intend. In thankfulness for your many promises to your creation including to us, we offer these gifts to aid the work of your church on earth. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

CLOSING HYMN: “Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers” #15

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear; The evening is advancing And darker night is near. The Bride-groom is arising And soon He will draw nigh; Up, watch with expectation, At midnight comes the cry.

See that your lamps are burning, Replenish them with oil; Look now for your salvation, The end of sin and toil. The marriage feast is waiting, The gates wide open stand; Arise, O heirs of glory, The Bride-groom is at hand!

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; Arise, Thou sun so longed for, Above this shadowed sphere! With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see The day of earth's redemption, And ever be with Thee!

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

ⁱ *Book of Common Worship, 392.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mon. Nov. 9	Session Meeting	7:00 PM
Wed. Nov. 11	PNC Meeting	1:00 PM
	Evening Prayer	6:30 PM
Thurs. Nov. 12	Christmas Pageant Meeting	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.

Our thanks go to our lay reader Martha Orcutt, and pianist Juanita Rodriquez.

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 **Fall Congregational Meeting** is called for immediately after worship today, Sunday, November 8th, for the purpose of electing church officers, voting on additions to our by-laws to allow online meetings, and hearing a report from the session finance committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

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.

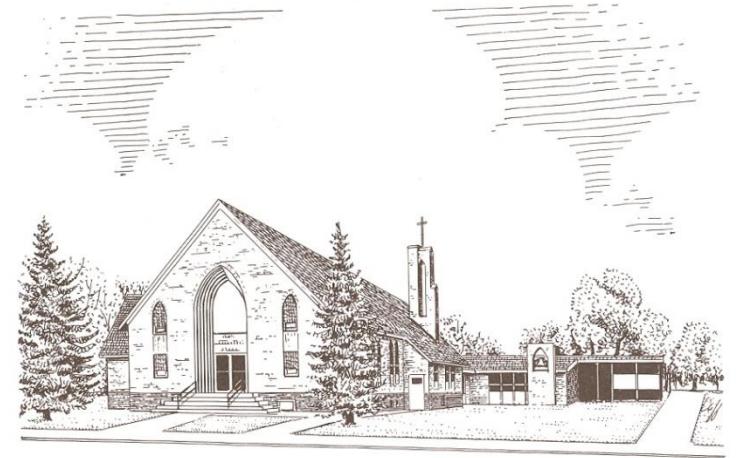
The Conrad/Brady Christmas Tree program will happen again this year, but there are several changes due to COVID-19. Details are available at www.ConradFirstPres.org/giving-tree. This year, we need to provide an indication of the number of givers in advance. If you would like to give gifts through this 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 Thursday, **November 19th**.

If you have any articles to contribute to the **December Newsletter**, please turn them into the office no later than **November 20th**.

Last week, combined giving was **\$4,131.00**. In order to meet expenses, we need to average **\$2,588.00** per week.

First Presbyterian Church



123 Fourth Avenue SW
Conrad, Montana 59425
(406) 278 3043
compres@3rivers.net
<https://www.conradfirstpres.org>

Interim Pastor: Rev. Andrew Smothers
Clerk of Session: Marla Bruner
Church Secretary: Wendi Dayrider