

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

October 25, 2020

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in God's Name . . .

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

(for silent prayer during the prelude)

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works proceed: Give to your servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments, and that free from the fear of our enemies we may pass our time in trust and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, 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 90: 13-17)

One: O Lord, have compassion on your servants!

All: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

One: Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil.

All: Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

One: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands.

All: Let us worship God!

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord" #392

Take Thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly pray; Give us the mind of Christ each passing day; Teach us to know the truth that sets us free; Grant us in all our thoughts to honor Thee.

Take Thou our hearts, O Christ, they are Thine own; Come Thou within our souls and claim Thy throne; Help us to shed abroad Thy deathless love; Use us to make the earth like heaven above.

Take Thou our wills, Most High! Hold Thou full sway; Have in our

inmost souls Thy perfect way; Guard Thou each sacred hour from selfish ease; Guide Thou our ordered lives as Thou dost please.

Take Thou ourselves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will; Through our surrendered souls Thy plans fulfill. We yield ourselves to Thee time, talents, all; We hear, and henceforth heed, Thy sovereign call.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

The apostle Paul tells us, "For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another." With seriousness let us examine our hearts and confess the ways that we have selfishly neglected love of God and others.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Our God, we confess that we pay lip service to loving you with all of our hearts, but spend much time thinking about our own desires. We are easily distracted by personal wants and opinions and goals. These deaden our attention to and love for you. They also displace our love for others. Forgive us, Lord. Teach us to love you with steadfastness and trust, knowing that as we devote ourselves to you, you will also be at work through us making your love known to others. We pray in Jesus Christ, the one who has given his life for us, so that we might know new life with you. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone, a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and freed to restored relationships with God and others.

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 Deuteronomy 34:1-12 **p. 191**

Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face.

***GOSPEL READING** Matthew 22:34-46 **p. 25**

Jesus said: "‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

SERMON "We Find Ourselves Where God Is"

Rev. Dr. Beth McCaw

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

One: What do you mean by saying, "He ascended to heaven"?

Many: That Christ, while his disciples watched, was taken up from the earth into heaven and remains there on our behalf until he comes again to judge the living and the dead.

One: But isn't Christ with us until the end of the world as he promised us?

Many: Christ is true human and true God. In his human nature Christ is not now on earth; but in his divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit he is never absent from us.

One: If his humanity is not present wherever his divinity is, then aren't the two natures of Christ separated from each other?

Many: Certainly not. Since divinity is not limited and is present everywhere, it is evident that Christ's divinity is surely beyond the bounds of the humanity that has been taken on, but at the same time his divinity is in and remains personally united to his humanity.

One: How does Christ's ascension to heaven benefit us?

Many: First, he is our advocate in heaven in the presence of

his Father. Second, we have our own flesh in heaven as a sure pledge that Christ our head will also take us, his members, up to himself. Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth as a corresponding pledge. By the Spirit's power we seek not earthly things but the things above, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand.

... to Give Thanks to God ...

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (IN UNISON)

Blessed are you, God of all creation; through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. Blessed be God forever.ⁱⁱ Amen.

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

CLOSING HYMN: "Thine Is the Glory" #122

Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son; Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won. Angels in bright raiment Rolled the
stone away, Kept the folded grave-clothes Where Thy body lay.
Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son; Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, Risen from the tomb; Lovingly He greets us,
Scatters fear and gloom. Let the church with gladness Hymns of
triumph sing, For the Lord now liveth; Death hath lost its sting.
Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son; Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won.

No more we doubt Thee, Glorious Prince of life! Life is nought
without Thee; Aid us in our strife. Make us more than
conquerors Through Thy deathless love; Bring us safe through
Jordan To Thy home above. Thine is the glory, Risen,
conquering Son; Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

ⁱ Book of Common Worship, 382.

ⁱⁱ Worship Sourcebook, 246.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tues. Oct. 27 Pastor Nominating Committee Meeting 1:00 PM

Wed. Oct. 28 Evening Prayer 6:30 PM

Welcome to worship with us online! The Session has voted to cancel in-person worship and Coffee Hour for October 25th. Please watch the church website and/or Facebook page for updates for future weeks.

Our thanks go to our guest preacher Rev. Dr. Beth McCaw.

The **Pastor Nominating Committee** continues to invite your answers to the questions they have sent members of our newsletter mailing list.

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.

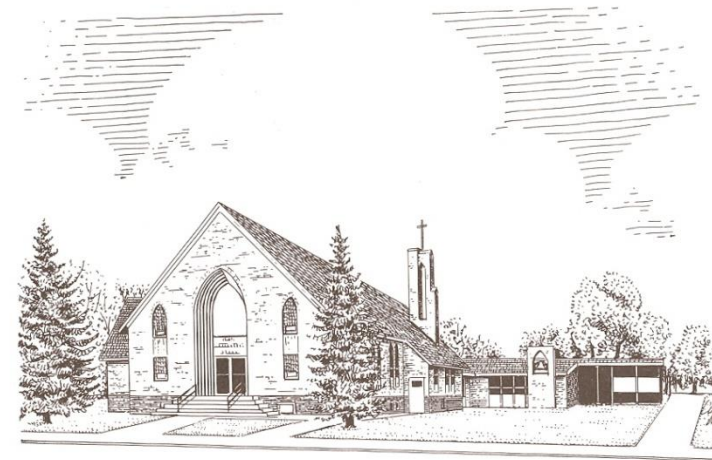
Just a reminder from the **Property Committee**, please make sure that all doors of the church are securely closed and locked as well as making sure that all lights in the building are turned off after any use of the building. We would very much appreciate this.

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 **November's Newsletter**, please turn them into the office no later than **October 23rd**.

Pastor Andy is away on study leave and vacation through October 25th. We would like to thank our guest preachers Gary Klette and Rev. Dr. Beth McCaw for filling in the last couple of weeks. Pastor Andy will be with us next Sunday.

First Presbyterian Church



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