

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 20, 2020

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in God's Name . . .

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

(for silent prayer during the prelude)

Almighty God, you created the heavens and the earth, and humankind in your image. Teach us to discern your hand in all your works and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.¹ Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM PSALM 105)

One: O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
All: make known his deeds among the peoples.
One: Sing to him, sing praises, to him;
All: tell of all his wonderful works.
One: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
All: Seek the Lord and all his strength; seek his presence continually.
One: Remember the wonderful works he has done;
All: his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered. Let us worship God!

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" #281

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy powerful hand; Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more, Feed me till I want no more.
Open now the crystal fountain, Whence the healing stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through; Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, Be Thou still my strength and shield, Be Thou still my strength and shield.
When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside; Death of death, and hell's destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side; Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee, I will ever give to Thee.

*CALL TO CONFESSION (FROM EXODUS 16)

Much as God was leading the Israelites into the Promised Land, he invites us into the Kingdom of Heaven. But as the Israelites grumbled against God, we also may grumble. We may grasp for the ways of the world rather than the ways of God. We may want to define what is fair within ourselves or desire to have things that bring gratification to the flesh. Let us ask for God's forgiveness where we have strayed from his ways.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Patient and merciful God, you led the Israelites for forty years through the desert to mold them and to create a people. They grumbled and complained and held onto the ways they knew from Egypt, where they were enslaved. They even made a golden calf and worshipped it. You are inviting us on a journey into the Kingdom of Heaven you have already begun creating, but we grumble and complain. We hold onto the ways of the world that we knew before you called us. We were enslaved there to sin and death. We remember old ways and try to gratify our flesh rather than feeding your Spirit within us. Forgive our deviations from the path you have set before us — forgive our sin. Continue to lead us into the Kingdom of Heaven in the name of the one who already rules from there, Lord Jesus the Messiah. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

As God led the Israelites through the desert, he had many reasons to be frustrated and abandon them and this is evident through scripture. But God endured with them and provided for them, and this new nation would eventually reach the Promised Land. God continues to endure with us today. Call on Jesus, know that you are forgiven, and continue the journey to the Kingdom of Heaven. 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 16:2-15	p. 62
EPISTLE READING	Philippians 1:21-30	p. 196
*GOSPEL READING	Matthew 20:1-16	p. 21

SERMON "A Life Worthy of the Gospel" 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 35-36)

One: What does it mean that he "was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary"?

Many: **That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that he might also become David's true descendant, like his brothers and sisters in every way except for sin.**

One: How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?

Many: **He is our mediator and, in God's sight, he covers with his innocence and perfect holiness my sinfulness in which I was conceived.**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
One: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord.
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise
One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O God our creator and redeemer. You created a nation through a covenant with the Israelites — first with their ancestors. You made yourself known to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and made an everlasting covenant with them. You promised to give them a land and your portion as an inheritance. When they were few in number and wanderers from nation to nation, you allowed no one to oppress them and rebuked kings on their account. You summoned a famine against the land but sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave. Though he suffered at the hands of humans, you made him lord, second in command, to instruct

officials at his pleasure, and to teach elders wisdom. You brought Israel to Egypt and made your people very fruitful. You sent your servant, Moses, and your chosen, Aaron, who performed many miracles and signs among them. You brought plagues upon Egypt to bring Israel out with silver and gold. You brought quails and gave Israel food from heaven in abundance. You fulfilled your promise to bring their descendants to the Promised Land.ⁱ Many years would pass, but in time you would come in human form through a woman, Mary, and the Holy Spirit to bring salvation to humankind through Jesus. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

One: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He took upon himself the weight of our sin and carried the burden of our guilt. He shared our life in every way, and though tempted, was sinless to the end. Baptized as your own, he went willingly to his death and by your power was raised to new life. In his dying and rising, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

One: Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us, and celebrate with joy, the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. May we proclaim the One crucified and risen.

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

One: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ, and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. Help us, O God, to be obedient to your call to love all your children, to do justice and show mercy, and to live in peace with your whole creation. Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours

almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

... to Give Thanks to God ...

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*in unison*)

Almighty and loving God, to those you have chosen, you endlessly pursue them. Not letting sin forever separate you from them, you came in human form that they might be forgiven and enjoy eternal life with you. You reward those who come early as well as those who come to you late in life. In thankfulness for your mercy and your justice, we offer these gifts from what you have given us for the work of your Kingdom on earth. May your Kingdom come in its fullness and with haste. Amen.

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

CLOSING HYMN: "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" #372

Lord, I want to be a Christian In a my heart, in a my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian In a my heart. In a my heart, In a my heart, In a my heart, In a my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian In a my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving In a my heart, in a my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving In a my heart. In a my heart, In a my heart, In a my heart, In a my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving In a my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy In a my heart, in a my heart, Lord, I want to be more holy In a my heart. In a my heart, In a my heart, In a my heart, In a my heart, Lord, I want to be more holy In a my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus In a my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus In a my heart.

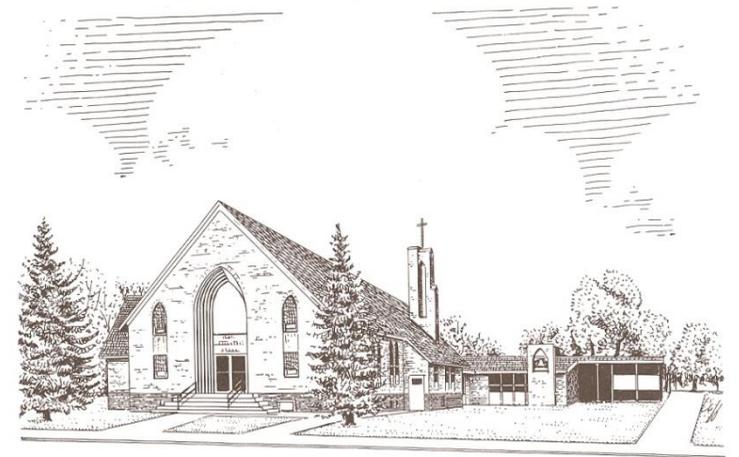
*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

ⁱ *Book of Common Worship, 375.*

ⁱⁱ *Based on Psalm 105, NSRV.*

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