

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

October 11, 2020

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in God's Name . . .

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

(for silent prayer during the prelude)

Merciful God, in Jesus Christ you do not call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. Draw us away from the easy road that leads to destruction, and guide us into paths that lead to life abundant, that in seeking your truth, and obeying your will, we may know the joy of being a disciple 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 106)

One: Praise the Lord!

All: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

One: Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord, or declare all his praise?

All: Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times. Let us worship God!

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Rejoice, the Lord Is King" #155

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, And triumph evermore: Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
God's kingdom cannot fail, Christ rules o'er earth and heaven; The keys of death and hell Are to our Jesus given: Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come To glorify the saints For their eternal home: Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

*CALL TO CONFESSION

When Moses was on the mountain for longer than the Israelites could tolerate, they became anxious and commanded for Aaron to make gods for them. While we may not fashion a golden calf, we can become anxious and exclude God as a source of our solution. Let us come before a merciful God who desires we take our concerns to him.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and merciful God, you led the Israelites out of Egypt with a pillar of cloud by day and with fire by night. You, also, guide us in our lives through the scriptures, through hidden ways, through people you place in our path, and through the many resources you grant us. Forgive that we let our anxieties overwhelm us, and help us to take our concerns to you. Reduce these anxieties within us, and allow us to focus on the one who carefully created us, lovingly redeemed us, and constantly sustains us. In the name of our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Paul commands the Philippians, "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Cast your anxieties on him, be transformed, 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 Exodus 32:1-14 **p. 78**

EPISTLE READING Philippians 4:1-9 **p. 198**

***GOSPEL READING** Matthew 22:1-14 **p. 24**

SERMON "The Lord Is Near" 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 40-44)

One: Why did Christ have to suffer death?

Many: Because God's justice and truth require it: nothing else could pay for our sins except the death of the Son of God.

One: Why was he "buried"?

Many: His burial testifies that he really died.

One: Since Christ has died for us, why do we still have to die?

Many: Our death does not pay the debt of our sins. Rather, it puts an end to our sinning and is our entrance into eternal life.

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.

One: Why does the creed add, "He descended to hell"?

Many: To assure me during attacks of deepest dread and temptation that Christ my Lord, by suffering unspeakable anguish, pain, and terror of soul, on the cross but also earlier, has delivered me from hellish anguish and torment.

. . . to Give Thanks to God . . .

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (IN UNISON)

Gracious God, you created the earth, the heavens, and all that is in them. You created the vegetation, the animals of the land, the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all else. All of this offers us an incredible and diverse abundance. But, even

when we find ourselves anxious in your creation, you offer that we may come to you, and you will offer us your peace, which surpasses all understanding. In thankfulness for these many blessings and your constant sustenance, we offer these gifts for your work in your kingdom. May your kingdom come and quickly. In the name of the one who died that we may live. Amen.

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

CLOSING HYMN: "O For a Closer Walk with God" #397
O for a closer walk with God, A calm and heavenly frame, A light to shine upon the road That leads me to the Lamb!
Return, O holy Dove, return, Sweet messenger of rest! I hate the sins that made Thee mourn And drove Thee from my breast.
The dearest idol I have known, What e'er that idol be, Help me to tear it from Thy throne, And worship only Thee.
So shall my walk be close with God, Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road That leads me to the Lamb.

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

ⁱ *Book of Common Worship, 379-80.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mon. Oct. 12	Session	7:00 PM
Wed. Oct. 14	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.

Our thanks go to our lay reader Karen Burditt, and organist Ernestine Olson.

There will be a short meeting for members of the **Presbyterian Women** immediately after worship in the sanctuary to address one piece of business. We invite members of this group to stay in the sanctuary for this short meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

Pastor Andy will be away on study leave and vacation October 12th through October 25th. While he is away, please come and support our guest preachers. Gary Klette will be speaking this coming Sunday, October 18th and Rev. Dr. Beth McCaw will be speaking on Sunday, October 25th. Wednesday Evening Prayer will continue in Pastor Andy's absence in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 PM.

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 **Pastor Nominating Committee** continues to invite your answers to the questions they have sent members of our newsletter mailing list. Paper copies of the questions are available in the narthex.

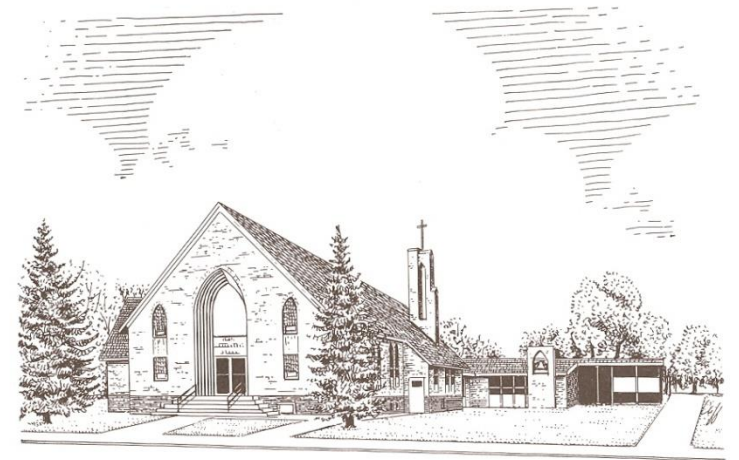
The sidewalk on the east side of the church has become dangerous and needs replacement before winter. Neil Weisgram has estimated the cost to replace at \$4000.00. Donations to compete this project are urgently needed. Please consider helping. Contact any Property Committee member if you have any questions.

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

Last week, combined giving was **\$4,271.00**. In order to meet expenses, we need to average **\$2,588.00** per week.

First Presbyterian Church



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