

First Presbyterian Church

September 27, 2020 - 11:00 A.M.
Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: "If Thou Art Near" J. S. Bach

✠ CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Becoming a baby,

People: Christ transformed all of us into his sisters and brothers.

Leader: Telling us stories we had forgotten,

People: God helps us to walk the paths of discipleship.

Leader: Becoming foolish in the world's eyes,

People: the Spirit teaches us all we need to find our way into the kingdom.

✠ PRAYER OF THE DAY {Unison}

When we think your job is to listen to our petty quarrels,
you lean over, put your finger to our lips, whispering,
'Let me tell you a story.'
Rock Splitter, we worship you.

When we want to ask you all sorts of questions,
and demand to see your background check,
you put your arms around us, gently saying,
'I want you to meet some friends of mine.'
Self Emptier, we follow you.

When we are burned out by our chronic anger,
when our throats are parched by our litany of laments,
you take us by the hand, inviting,
'Let's go get a cold drink down at Rock's cafe.'
Sharing Spirit, we adore you.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

✠ CALL TO RECONCILIATION

All too often, we tell God we will do better, and be better,
and then just go on living the same way we always have.
Let this be the moment when we tell our God of our
failures and faithlessness, so we can go forth to work in
that kingdom of grace and hope. Join me as we pray,

✠ UNISON PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

We would want to be fountains of hope for others, God of glory, but people find only hardened hearts. We would like to be transformed people, but our stubborn pride prevents us from bending a knee to you. We long to stand with those who are in need, but our selfishness keeps our backs rigid with judgment.

Forgive us, God who came down to us. Humble us, that we might be true servants to the broken and lost. Split open our frozen hearts, that compassion might flow freely to those who are hurting. Fill our minds with the presence of your Spirit, that we might learn how to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, into that kingdom of grace and hope.

✠ SILENT CONFESSION

✠ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: This is the good news: in Christ, God's plan for salvation was accomplished. You are forgiven, you are made new.

People: We will complete God's joy, by sharing compassion, forgiveness, hope, with everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

✠ GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.*

✠ PRAYER OF DEDICATION / OFFERING

{Offering plates are available in the vestibule and McLees Gallery.}

May the simple gifts we offer this day become a fountain of blessings for others, bringing them hope, healing, joy, and peace. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON: {Children will remain seated.}

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Exodus 17:1-7

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON: Pastor Sherry Teves
"THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS A PLOT TWIST: AUTHORITY"

ANTHEM: "This One Thing I Ask of The Lord" arr. McCarthy

✠ **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of
God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

✠ **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Leader: Lord Have mercy...
People: Hear our Prayer.

✠ **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

✠ **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: Go forth to share God's love with all.
People: We will become a river of love through the world.
Leader: Go forth to share Christ's grace.
People: We will be a fountain flowing in the barren places.
Leader: Go forth to share the community of the Spirit.
People: We will become a pool of peace where all may be refreshed.

✠ **CHORAL BENEDICTION:** "Shalom Chaverim" (Farewell, Good Friends!)
Israeli Melody

✠ **POSTLUDE:** "The Banner of the Cross" arr. H. Wilson

✠ Those able are invited to stand.

+++

WELCOME to all who are worshipping with us this Sunday morning. We pray that you will feel the warmth of God's Spirit, and that you will be spiritually encouraged and nurtured as we worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Lawrence, Joni, and Abigail Thackston.

SERMON SERIES ON MATTHEW: Our sermon series on the Gospel of Matthew titled: "The Kingdom of Heaven is a plot twist" continues today. We will be exploring how the Kingdom of Heaven differs from our earthly expectations. How does Jesus flip the script? How does this affect the way in which we embody Christ in our earthly roles? How does this impact our witness for ushering in God's Kingdom? Jesus is preparing the disciples for something new. How is God preparing us? Today: God's image of authority.

WHERE IS GOD IN ALL THIS? Please feel free to submit questions about the texts for today or any inquiry about how to live faithfully in current times. Applying our faith and integrating to everyday life is an important part of walking with Jesus. A video response will be posted weekly. Pastor Sherry (spteves@1stpresbyterian.org)

PASTOR SHERRY will be in the office Tuesday through Thursday of this week. You are welcome to call her at home on Monday or any time (843-568-7803).

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER will be observed on World Communion Sunday, October 4.

NOVEMBER 8 is an open date on the Sanctuary Flower Calendar. If you wish to place flowers in the church on that Sunday contact Katherine Patterson (533-8340).

JOIN YOUR CHURCH FAMILY for fun, Chick-fil-A, ice cream, and some long-awaited fellowship on Wednesday, October 7, 2020, 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Centre.