

First Presbyterian Church
Organized May 25, 1822

*With Christ as our Savior and Guide,
We seek to know God's love and share it
With each other, our community, and the world.
We invite you to join us in this journey
of discipleship!*

*Rev. Dr. Gregory L. Glover, Pastor
Eighth Sunday After Pentecost
July 26, 2020*

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE "Six Preludes for Organ: Andante"
by Ernest Bloch

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE AND GREETING

The LORD be with you.
And also with you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

A tiny seed that burgeons into a majestic tree with branches that offer shelter and shade; or yeast, hidden within a bushel of flour, that transforms the dough in due time:

this is what the kingdom of heaven is like.

We gather 'round Jesus—our teacher and Lord—seeking wisdom and understanding, longing for a foretaste of the kingdom of heaven.

Let anyone with ears to hear listen!

*HYMN #475 "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, your kingdom confounds us. You challenge our assumptions about right living and stretch our understanding of what holds worth. You reverse our expectations and reorder our priorities until they reflect your vision of well-being for all. Your kingdom surprises us with grace upon grace. But we cling to the values of

this world, which privilege products over people, success over service, and competition for resources over the common good. Open us to new ways of living that embody your desire for creation and contribute to a commonwealth marked by justice and joy.

Now hear our silent, personal prayers of confession.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI, Hymn #581

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Romans 7:1-13 (p. 918)

SPECIAL MUSIC "I Will Exalt My God, My King"
Music & Text by Casiodoro Cardenas
Performed by Julia Lefurge & Ben Hickson

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Romans 7:14-25 (p. 918)

RESPONSE

SERMON "Inner Struggle"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #440 "Jesus Lover of My Soul"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Confession of 1967 (9.32-33)*

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission.

His human life involves the church in the common life of all people.

His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being.

His suffering makes the church sensitive

to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need.

His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice.

In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong.

The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY "Six Preludes for Organ: Poco lento"
by Ernest Bloch

*THE DOXOLOGY, Hymn #606

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN #703 "Jesus Thy Boundless Love to Me"

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE "Six Preludes for Organ: Moderato"
by Ernest Bloch



WORSHIP NOTES

Jennifer Ellis is today's liturgist.

Beth Glover is leading today's Children's Moment

Hannah Cruse is Director of Music.

Douglas Ferguson is today's Audio-Visual Specialist.

***Please stand if you are able.**

This lovely arrangement was purchased in honor of Tom & Charlotte Graves' 54th Wedding Anniversary. Charlotte was able to bless others this week by gifting the beautiful flowers to shut ins and neighbors.

