

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
Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 27, 2020*

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"
Arr. by Seth Bingham

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE AND GREETING

The LORD be with you.
And also with you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Listen, O people, to holy teaching; tune your ears to hear God's word.

We gather to proclaim our sacred story, to tell of God's wondrous deeds.

Come, O people, into holy space to worship the Lord, our sustainer and guide.

Let us turn to God in prayer and praise.

*HYMN #630 "Fairer Lord Jesus"

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving Lord, you desire that we have the same mind as Christ and imitate his compassionate service.

But our minds are fixed on attitudes and ambitions that draw us away from you.

We labor for ourselves and attend to the needs of a precious few before considering how our time and talents could bless the world.

We look up to the rich and famous and overlook the lowly rather than affirming the dignity of all.

Transform us, we pray. By your grace, give us the same mind and the same love as our Lord Jesus Christ, and work within us until our actions bear witness to the faith our tongues confess.

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 Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 (p. 685)

SPECIAL MUSIC "Prayer for Today"
By Margaret Tucker and Michael Kemp
Performed by First Presbyterian Choir

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 21:23-32 (p. 802)

RESPONSE

SERMON "Changing Minds"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #716 "God Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *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 "Do Not I Love Thee, O My Lord"
Arr. by Gardner Read

THE DOXOLOGY, Hymn #606

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN #700 "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE "Fugue in D minor"
by Felix Mendelssohn

WORSHIP NOTES

Allister Banasiak is today's liturgist.
Dianne York is leading today's Children's Moment.
Hannah Cruse is Director of Music and Accompanist.
Carolyn Riggins, Liz Thomas, Doug Young, David Goldblatt, David Seay, Dylan May, Hannah Lawrence, and Charles Anderson are today's Vocalists.
Douglas Ferguson & Morgan Adames are today's Audio-Visual Specialists.