



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God
October 2, 2022
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

Beloved Jesus, at Your Word (Hymn 454)

arr. Dupré

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from Isaiah 55

From north and south and east and west,
all Creation sings forth your praises!
The mountains and the hills burst into song;
the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Your steadfast love never ceases.
With joy and peace, let us worship God together.

*HYMN 473 (V.1-5)

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts, and mild,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For Thy church that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

OPENING PRAYER

God of all the earth, you have poured out your blessings upon all peoples. Grant us eyes to see your gifts of faith and love. Appoint us heralds of your mercies that are new every morning. Empower us to write the vision of your peaceable kingdom, where destruction and violence are no more, where suffering and wars shall cease. Through our worship empower us to be sent out with joy as bearers of your hope in a hurting world; through Christ. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

from 2 Timothy 1:1-14

God's grace was given to us in Christ before the ages began. In spite of God's love for us and gift of love to us, we often act in destructive and hateful ways. Trusting in Christ's mercy that never ends, let us with honesty confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious Lord, you created the whole world and called it good, but we look out at your world and see division and suffering. You call us to maintain the unity of spirit in the bond of peace, but we choose division over diversity, confrontation over civility, conflict over peace born from justice. You call us to love the least of these among us, but we hear the cries of the oppressed and choose our own comfort. We allow senseless suffering rather than sacrifice for our neighbors. Forgive us. Grant us fresh vision to see one another as siblings in Christ. Rekindle in us your gifts – the spirit of power, love and self-discipline – that with faith in Christ, we might be made new and be part of bringing forth your peaceable kingdom.

Silent prayer

Amen.

We call to mind your promises and therefore we find hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. God's mercies are new every morning. Believe the good news. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

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.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 55

SERMON

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

ANTHEM

Prayer for Peace

text: St. Francis of Assisi
music: Benjamin Harlan

Lord, make me an instrument,
Lord, make me an instrument,
Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.
That where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, let there be faith;
Where there is despair, hope,
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love.
It is in giving that we receive;
It is in pard'ning that we are pardoned;
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life,
To eternal life.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Gifted with the grace of God, let us offer ourselves to the building of God's kingdom.

OFFERING PRAYER

Bless the gifts given in thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all, that we might serve you and your people with great love. In Christ's name, amen.

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Christ's table is wide, and his welcome is for all. Jesus dined with sinners and saints, with farmhands and foreigners, with disciples and doubters, with children and cherished friends, with the outcast and the outspoken, with lepers and loved ones. And just as he ate at others' tables, when Christ set his banquet table, we welcomed us all too. As we gather around Christ's table, we are united with all of God's beloved across the world through the love and grace made known in the bread broken and cup passed. So come to the table where we witness Christ's love and peace for all.

THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYER

With fresh eyes and renewed hope, we join our voices with those around the world and with your heavenly chorus to sing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER

...Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The bread and juice are distributed together and can be enjoyed immediately.

THE 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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of wheat and wine, long after your son first gathered his friends around a table in an upper room, your Holy Spirit has continued meeting us at tables: hand-crafted tables painted with intricate designs and weathered park benches that serve as a place to eat when needed; tables that are covered with homemade casseroles and tables with quickly opened fast food bags being passed around; tables that are surrounded by friends and families and tables where only one seat is filled. No matter what each table looks like, the food that is served, or the people gathered around it, your Spirit meets us still. For your ever-present Spirit, O God, we give you thanks. Continue to pour out your Spirit upon us so that when the meal is over and we leave this table, we might be a part of extending every table around the world. Help every meal we share look more and more like your heavenly feast; everyone welcomed, everyone fed, everyone nourished. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 439 (V. 1-4)

In Christ There Is No East or West

In Christ there is no east or west,
In Him no south or north;
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
Their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord
Close-binding humankind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith,
Whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
Are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west,
In Him meet south and north;
All Christly souls are one in Him
Throughout the whole wide earth.

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

The peace of Christ, the love of God, and the joy of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Alleluia!
Go out in joy, bearing witness to the good news of the gospel, and be led forth in peace, sharing the peace of Christ with all. Amen.

~*~*~

Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

Linda Martin, Liturgist

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed, Luke McGloughlin

* Music reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE. All rights reserved.

Each Sunday we sing hymns taken from the blue hymnal provided for you in the pew where you are seated. Though we print the lyrics to the hymns in the bulletin, we encourage you to turn to the hymnal so you can also read the accompanying music.

Isaiah 55

Ho, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.