



# First Presbyterian

## CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God  
October 30, 2022  
**Stewardship Sunday**

### WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (Hymn 260)

Pachelbel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

For this day set aside to worship you,  
**we give you thanks, O God.**

For your desire to have a relationship with us, your children,  
**we give you thanks, O God.**

For your saving grace given to us through the gift of your Son,  
**we give you thanks, O God.**

For your caring love that knows no limits,  
**we give you thanks, O God.**

For the joy and blessings of serving you in community,  
**we give you thanks, O God.**

For the promise of eternal life,  
**we give you thanks, O God.**

For all these things and more, we give you thanks, as your grateful people.  
**Amen.**

\*HYMN 551 (V. 1-4)

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Come, ye thankful people come,  
Raise the song of harvest home:  
All is safely gathered in,  
Ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our Maker, doth provide  
For our wants to be supplied:  
Come to God's own temple, come,  
Raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field,  
Fruit unto God's praise to yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown,  
Unto joy or sorrow grown;  
First the blade, and then the ear,  
Then the full corn shall appear:  
Lord of harvest, grant that we  
Wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come,  
And shall take the harvest home;  
From each field shall in that day  
All offenses purge away;  
Give the angels charge at last  
In the fire the tares to cast,  
But the fruitful ears to store  
In God's garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come  
To Thy final harvest home;  
Gather Thou Thy people in,  
Free from sorrow, free from sin;  
There forever purified,  
In Thy presence to abide:  
Come, with all Thine angels, come,  
Raise the glorious harvest home.

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

Ever faithful God, you have called us to love one another. Together we confess that we do not always love one another as we should.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God, forgive us. Sometimes our lack of love comes from indifference. At other times, we put ourselves and our desires ahead of others' needs. And at other times, our lack of love is intentional, founded upon hate or fear. We fail to love because our love for you and trust in you are not complete.**

*Silent prayer*

**Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God loves us, in spite of our shortcomings. God receives our confessions with a gracious and forgiving heart, restoring and renewing our souls.

**Though the love and mercy of God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

**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**

RESPONSIVE READING

adapted from Psalm 136:1, 4-9, 24-26 (ESV)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**For his steadfast love endures forever.**

To him who alone does great wonders,  
to him who by understanding made the heavens,  
to him who spread out the earth above the waters.

**For his steadfast love endures forever.**

To him who made the great lights, the sun to rule over the day,  
the moon and stars to rule over the night.

**For his steadfast love endures forever.**

He rescued us from our foes,  
he who gives food to all flesh.

**Give thanks to the God of Heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.**

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

SERMON

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

ANTHEM

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Kathleen Thomerson  
arr. Richard Erickson

I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.  
In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,  
And show me the way to the Father.  
In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ,  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
We shall know the joy of Jesus.  
In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

#### **BLESSING OF OUR COMMITMENT TO FPCE FOR 2023**

Our mission as a church is to be a witness to the abiding love of Jesus Christ in our community and world.  
**And so we faithfully promise to be a vital and engaged congregation. We will strive to increase our devotion to God, to deepen our fellowship with one another, and strengthen our outreach to neighbor.**

God has made us stewards of the rich resources that were given in Creation and are given anew each day.  
**On this day, we give our offerings and our pledges for the church's mission and ministries throughout the year to come. We give knowing that all that we have comes from God. We trust that God continues to provide. We pledge knowing that there is much still to be done as witnesses to God's goodness.**  
Let us put our hearts into all our pledges as signs of our trust and faithfulness.

*At this time, you are invited to hold a symbol of your pledge in your hand  
as we consecrate our pledges together. You may bring your pledges forward, if able.*

#### **CONSECRATION OF OUR PLEDGES**

**Gracious God, bless our mutual commitment to build and nurture this faith community and to spread the good gospel. Grant that our discipleship might supply not only the needs of our mission and ministry, but that it might overflow with many thanksgivings to you. Grant that we may answer your call with willing hearts and serve in the body of Christ. In Jesus' holy name, we pray. Amen.**

#### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God, we bring all we have, and all we are, and all we feel into your care. In your company, we pray for collective wisdom. That you will guide us in the service of love. And that our commitments to our neighbors – especially those most afraid, most alone, or most vulnerable to violence – will be renewed with fervor. May it be so among us. Amen.

\*RESPONSE

**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.**

Doxology

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us draw near to the abiding love of God:

**God of generosity, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the church.

Almighty God, we give thanks for the gift of the body of Christ. We pray for all Christians, that their faith will continue to grow and that they will remain steadfast in their love for you and service to you. We pray that through your church, your name will be glorified.

*Silent prayer*

**God of authority, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for creation.

Creator God, we give thanks for our world and its abundance beyond measure. We pray for your guidance as we fulfill our responsibilities as its caretakers. We seek justice for the wounded and broken places. Help us to be channels of your loving care for this great gift.

*Silent prayer*

**God of justice, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for this community.

Loving God, we give thanks for the gift of communities – rural villages, suburban neighborhoods, city blocks. We pray for your guidance and insights as we witness to the community in which we live. We pray for willing and loving hearts as we interact with our neighbors. Help us to cease to do evil and learn to do good. Help us to rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, and plead for the widow.

*Silent prayer*

**God of compassion, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all families and those who live alone.

Gracious God, we give thanks for the gift of families. We pray for those who are in strained and challenging relationships. We pray for those who struggle for acceptance. We pray for those who suffer in silence with burdens of shame and guilt. Help us to be ready to offer the healing balm of love and grace to those who are hurting as a bridge to you and your comfort and forgiveness.

*Silent prayer*

**God of wholeness, hear our prayer.**

Patient God, we entrust our prayers to you. Give us insight to understand your leading and guidance as you answer our prayers. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## 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.**

## WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

\*HYMN 425 (V.1-4)

Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining

Lord of light, Your name outshining  
All the stars and suns of space,  
Use our talents in Your kingdom  
As the servants of Your grace;  
Use us to fulfill Your purpose  
In the gift of Christ Your Son:  
Abba, as in highest heaven,  
So on earth Your will be done.

By the toil of faithful workers  
In some far outlying field,  
By the courage where the radiance  
Of the cross is still revealed,  
By the victories of meekness,  
Through reproach and suffering won:  
Abba, as in highest heaven,  
So on earth Your will be done.

Grant that knowledge, still increasing,  
At Your feet may lowly kneel;  
With Your grace our triumphs hallow,  
With Your charity our zeal;  
Lift the nations from the shadows  
To the gladness of the sun:  
Abba, as in highest heaven,  
So on earth Your will be done.

By the prayers of faithful watchers,  
Never silent day or night;  
By the cross of Jesus, bringing  
Peace to all and healing light;  
By the love that passes knowledge,  
Making all Your children one:  
Abba, as in highest heaven,  
So on earth Your will be done.

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Go now into God's world, with the assurance that you are not alone! God is with you, touching your heart with mercy. Your community of faith is with you, filling your heart with encouragement. May your thoughts and deeds be a generous witness to all of God's children, drawing them near to God's love and grace. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (Hymn 591)

Pachelbel

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Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

Shirley Keller, Liturgist

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

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*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.*

**1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.