



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God
October 31, 2021
The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Stewardship Sunday

**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE All People That on Earth Do Dwell (Hymn 220) arr. Walther; Old Hundredth Psalm Tune

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is calling you today.

Help us to hear God's call in our lives.

God needs your gifts and graces to help others.

May we use the blessings which God has given us to benefit others.

Come, let us worship and celebrate God's love for us.

Let us show our faithfulness in our words and actions. Amen.

*HYMN No. 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.

WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

How often, O Lord, have we believed that the greatest commandment is our love for ourselves solely. We have not heard the cries of those in need; we have turned our backs on opportunities to serve you by serving others. Many times we have thought only of our own wants and desires and ignored the needs of others. Help us to truly understand the commandments to love you with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. Let us care for our neighbors both far and near. Bring us back to your loving light. For we ask these things in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Silent Prayer

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Our good news is this: The steadfast love of God never ceases. God's mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning. Great is God's faithfulness. -Lamentations 3:22-23

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. 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

Mark 12:28-34

SERMON

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

ANTHEM

In Faith I Calmly Rest

J. S. Bach; arr. Clarence Dickinson

In faith I calmly rest, and put my trust in God,
Although oft sore opprest with anxious care and dread;
His friendship my reward, in Him my joy I find;
He keepeth watch and ward o'er me and o'er my house.

Therefore I thank my God and joy to do His will;
I know, whate'er befall, His love doth lead me still.
So, like a little child who clasps his father's hand,
Serene I take my way, in faith untroubled stand.

Great peace they surely have who in the Lord confide,
Who cast on Him all care, and in His love abide.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

MOMENT FOR GIVING

The Psalms urge us to give thanks to God at all times, for everything God has provided. In gratitude, we offer to God a portion of what God has given to us. Please leave your offering in the plate in the back of the sanctuary or make your gifts online or via mail.

*RESPONSE

Doxology

**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.**

*PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Gracious God, you have made a world for us and given us incomparable gifts: air and water, family and friends, your steadfast love and forgiveness, and your son Jesus the Christ. For all the gifts and wonders you have bestowed on us,

We thank you and worship you with renewed gratitude.

O God, you created us to love one another as Christ has loved us. We are concerned about all your children, those who live near us, and those who live far away. We are eager to participate in the work of the whole church and to further the ministry and service of this congregation.

We are called to be your stewards. We thoughtfully shoulder our personal share of responsibility, and we pledge to witness to the good news of Christ with our hearts and hands and voices.

We are confident in your love and care for us.

We gladly give back to our Gracious God our whole lives, our time, our talents, and our financial resources.

The commissioning of annual pledges.

O God, throughout the ages you have challenged your people to step out in faith and follow you. You have put purpose and direction in the lives of your people. We have before us a new direction and a new purpose. We have set our feet on the pathway. Be our guide. Whisper in our ears when we need to make decisions. Hold us up if we start to stumble. May your Holy Spirit lead us in joyful song and fill us with eager anticipation. You are our vision, O God; lead us on our journey. 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.

*HYMN No. 276, V. 1-3

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

Do what you have learned and received and seen and heard in Christ, and the peace of God will be with you. And may that peace, which passes all understanding, guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

POSTLUDE Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow (Hymn 591) arr. Callahan; Old Hundredth Psalm Tune

*The table flowers are given by the Charlton Family in memory of
Great-Aunt Gilda Pulsinelli (Nov. 10, 1921-May 8, 2021) and
Cousin Donald Heaton (Oct. 31, 1960-Feb.1, 2021)*

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Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel
Gloria Snyder, Organist
Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director
The Chancel Choir
Ellis Finger, Liturgist

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Kimberly Rausch, Pat Koefoed, Luke McGloughlin
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Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,' --this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.