



# First Presbyterian

## CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God  
September 19, 2021  
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
**Comeback 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

Festive Trumpet Tune

German

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Join Hands to Stop Hunger 2021-2022

Pat Koefoed, Mission Team

### WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 51

May your love and mercy be with us, O Lord.

**Cleanse and refresh us today.**

Let your joy and gladness dawn in our spirits, O Lord.

**Make us new by the power of your Spirit.**

Have mercy upon us O God, gather us to you,  
and lead us in truth and righteousness.

**Let us worship God. Amen.**

\*HYMN No. 559

We Gather Together

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;  
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,  
Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;  
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
Thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be Thine!

We all do extoll Thee, Thou leader triumphant,  
And pray that Thou still our defender wilt be.  
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;  
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

### **WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD**

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have not always lived up to the example set by your Son, Jesus Christ. We confess how difficult it is to love the people around us; to care as deeply for the well-being of strangers as for our own; to delight in the good fortune of others without feeling envious.

**Forgive us. Teach us to whole-heartedly love one another.**

We confess how often we act out of our own self-interest; putting our needs and desires ahead of the needs of others; hoarding our resources rather than sharing them freely.

**Forgive us. Teach us to live with generosity and compassion.**

We confess how easy it is to do what we know is wrong: to rationalize our bad decisions and behaviors, to make excuses for our hurtful words and actions.

**Forgive us. Teach us to turn away from what is wrong and pursue what is right.**

You call us to turn away from the harmful behaviors and attitudes of the world around us; and to be renewed and transformed by your grace at work in our lives.

*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

Luke 1:26-38

SERMON

ReNewed Spirit

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord.  
Come, let us shout to the Rock of our salvation.  
Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord.

Come, let us bow. Let us bow down in worship.  
Come, let us kneel. Let us offer our praise.  
He is our God. We are His people.  
We are His sheep for the rest of our days.

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

##### 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. 555

##### Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God  
With heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done,  
In whom this world rejoices;  
Who, from our mothers' arms,  
Hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God  
Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in God's grace,  
And guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills  
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God,  
Who reigns in highest heaven,  
To Father and to Son  
And Spirit now be given.  
The one eternal God,  
Whom heaven and earth adore,  
The God who was, and is,  
And shall be evermore.

#### 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, trusting that God will bless what we bring and multiply our gifts to serve God's good purposes. Please leave your offering in the plate in the back of the sanctuary or make your gifts online or via mail. Thank you for your support.*

#### \*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.**

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#### BLESSING BOX DEDICATION

Carol Schroeher, Mission Team

We are assembled here to dedicate this BLESSING BOX to the glory of God, in service to the people of this community.

God, accept these gifts we bring to share life and hope and food with your hungry children.

**We thank you for the good gifts that you have given us to share with all people.**

We pray for those who struggle to make ends meet, for those who wonder where their next meal is coming from, and for every young child and senior citizen who does not have enough to eat.

**Lord, hear our prayer. Guide our congregation to care for those in need.**

**All: God of abundant love and infinite mercy, hear our prayer.**

**Multiply our gifts to feed those hungry for food and those hungry for you. Help us walk humbly and share your joy and love in this broken, hurting and fearful world. In the name of Jesus, our Risen Savior, we pray. Amen.**

I declare this Blessing Box dedicated to the glory of God and the service of God's children. Amen. Thanks be to God!

## 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

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#### Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Elizabeth Campbell, choir director

Gloria Snyder, organ and piano

Rebecca Rhodes, trumpet

Luke McGloughlin, liturgist

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

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### **Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.