



Community Presbyterian Church

Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time
1 October 2023

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Open My Eyes That I May See

*Call to Worship

(One) Almighty God, you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit.

(All) Let us spread this gift throughout the world by our love for one another. That it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(One) Come, Let us worship the God from whom all our blessings flow and who dwells with us today.

(All) We will praise the One who lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 25:1-9

(Alternating sides of the sanctuary will read every other verse from the pew Bible, starting with the eastern side.)

(Left) To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

(Right) O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

(Left) Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

(Right) Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

(Left) Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

(Right) Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

(Left) Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

(Right) Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

(Left) He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

*Hymn (68)

Come Thou Fount

(1) Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;

praise his name--I'm fixed upon it--
name of God's redeeming love.

(2) Here I raise my Ebenezer,
hither by thy help I've come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
bought me with his precious blood.

(3) O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee;
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Prayer of Confession

(All) God of mercy, You sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

(All) In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, our sins have been washed away by the blood of the Lamb and we have been reconciled with our Creator. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

Old Testament Reading
New Testament Reading
Gospel Reading

Exodus 17:1-7
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

Sermon

***Hymn (269)** *When I Survey The Wondrous Cross*

(1) When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

(2) Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

(3) See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

(4) Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

RESPONSE

Prayer of Invitation

Eat This Bread

Eat this bread, Drink this cup.
Come to him and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, Drink this cup.
Trust in him and you will not thirst.

Words of Institution

Communion

I Am the Bread of Life

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. **I believe** in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. **I believe** in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory

*Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

*Passing of the Peace

Prayers of the People

(One) In Your mercy ...

(All) ... **Hear our prayers.**

The Lord's Prayer (sins/trespass)

SENDING

Charge

Benediction

Postlude

O' God Our Help in Ages Past

SCRIPTURES

Exodus 17:1-7

17:1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

17:2 The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?"

17:3 But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"

17:4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me."

17:5 The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.

17:6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

17:7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Philippians 2:1-13

2:1 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy,

2:2 make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

2:3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.

2:4 Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

2:5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

2:6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

2:7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,

2:8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

2:9 Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

2:10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

2:11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2:12 Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

2:13 for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Matthew 21:23-32

21:23 When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?"

21:24 Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.

21:25 Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'

21:26 But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet."

21:27 So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

21:28 "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.'

21:29 He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went.

21:30 The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go.

21:31 Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.

21:32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the

prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.