



Community Presbyterian Church

Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time
8 October 2023

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Come, Christians, Join To Sing

*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 19

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

(Left) The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

(Right) Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

(Left) There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

(Right) yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

(Left) which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

(Right) Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

(Left) The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

(Right) the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;

(Left) the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

(Right) More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

(Left) Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

(Right) But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

(Left) Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

(Right) Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

***Hymn (31)** *I Sing the Almighty Power of God*

(1) I sing the almighty power of God
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad
and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at his command
and all the stars obey.

(2) I sing the goodness of the Lord
that filled the earth with food;
he formed the creatures with his word
and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how your wonders are displayed
where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread
or gaze upon the sky!

(3) There's not a plant or flower below
but makes your glories known;
and clouds arise and tempests blow
by order from your throne;
while all that borrows life from you
is ever in your care,
and everywhere that I may be,
you, God, are present there.

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

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

New Testament Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:33-46

Sermon

***Hymn (118)**

Lord of The Dance

(1) I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain:

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

(2) I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the Dance went on. [Refrain]

(3) I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame,
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high;
and they left me there on a cross to die. [Refrain]

(4) I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the Dance and I still go on. [Refrain]

(5) They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. [Refrain]

RESPONSE

***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

For The Beauty of the Earth

***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

Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CPC October Session

The CPC elders will meet for our monthly meeting this Wednesday, October 11th, from 10:00am to 12:00pm in Darley Hall.

Burton Smith's Memorial Service

Burton Smith's memorial service in witness to the resurrection will be held on Saturday, October 14th, at 2:00pm in the Baptist Fellowship Hall.

Jason's Time-Off

Beginning Monday, October 16th, Jason will be taking a few weeks off.

SCRIPTURES

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

20:1 Then God spoke all these words:

20:2 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;

20:3 you shall have no other gods before me.

20:4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

20:7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

20:8 Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.

20:9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

20:12 Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

20:13 You shall not murder.

20:14 You shall not commit adultery.

20:15 You shall not steal.

20:16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

20:17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

20:18 When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance,

20:19 and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die."

20:20 Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

Philippians 3:4b-14

3:4b If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:

3:5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;

3:6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

3:7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.

3:8 More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

3:9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.

3:10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death,

3:11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

3:12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

3:13 Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,

3:14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 21:33-46

21:33 "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.

21:34 When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce.

21:35 But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.

21:36 Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way.

21:37 Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'

21:38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'

21:39 So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

21:40 Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

21:41 They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

21:42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?"

21:43 Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.

21:44 The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

21:45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them.

21:46 They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.