



# Community Presbyterian Church

Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time  
12 November 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 78:1-7*

(One) Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

**(All) I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.**

(One) We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

**(All) He established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children; that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children,**

(One) so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

### \*Hymn (405)

*My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

(1) My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

### Refrain:

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand:  
all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

(2) When darkness veils his lovely face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in every high and stormy gale,  
my anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]

(3) His oath, his covenant, his blood,  
support me in the whelming flood;  
when all around my soul gives way,  
he then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]

(4) When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in him be found:  
dressed in his righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before the throne. [Refrain]

### **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**

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **Old Testament Reading**

*Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-20*

### **New Testament Reading**

*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

### **Gospel Reading**

*Matthew 25:1-13*

### **Sermon**

### **\*Hymn (466)**

*Take My Life and Let it Be*

(1) Take my life and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my hands and let them move

at the impulse of thy love,  
at the impulse of thy love.

(2) Take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee;  
take my voice and let me sing  
always, only, for my King,  
always, only, for my King.

(3) Take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages for thee;  
take my silver and my gold,  
not a mite would I withhold,  
not a mite would I withhold.

(4) Take my love, my God, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee,  
ever, only, all for thee.

## **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**

## \*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

## SCRIPTURES

### Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-20

6:12 Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her.

6:13 She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.

6:14 One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate.

6:15 To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,

6:16 because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

6:17 The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction, and concern for instruction is love of her,

6:18 and love of her is the keeping of her laws, and giving heed to her laws is assurance of immortality,

6:19 and immortality brings one near to God;

6:20 so the desire for wisdom leads to a kingdom.

### 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

4:14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.

4:15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.

4:16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

4:17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever.

4:18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

### Matthew 25:1-13

25:1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.

25:2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.

25:3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them;

25:4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.

25:5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.

25:6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'

25:7 Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.

25:8 The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'

25:9 But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.'

25:10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut.

25:11 Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.'

25:12 But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.'

25:13 Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.