



Community Presbyterian Church

Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time
19 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 90:1-12

(One) Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

(All) Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

(One) You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

(All) For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

(One) You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

(All) For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

(One) You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

(All) For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh.

(One) The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

(All) Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.

(One) So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

*Hymn (698)

Let us Talents and Tongues Employ

(1) Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain:
Jesus lives again,
earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around:
loaves abound!

(2) Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he set the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. [Refrain]

(3) Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere! [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

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

New Testament Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon

***Hymn (153)**

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

(1) Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

(2) Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Games Up Here

We're playing games this **Monday, November 20th** at the Presbyterian Annex at 7:00pm.

Wednesday Bible Study

We're taking this Wednesday off from weekly Bible Study for the Thanksgiving holiday. Join us the following **Wednesday, November 29th at 5:00pm** in Darley Hall and on Zoom as we begin the third chapter of Parker Palmer's *On the Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity, and Getting Old*.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Men's Prayer Breakfast is taking a holiday break. Men's Prayer Breakfasts will resume after the New Year on Thursday, January 4, 2024.

SCRIPTURES

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

1:7 Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

1:12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm."

1:13 Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

1:14 The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.

1:15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

1:16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

1:17 I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.

1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

5:1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you.

5:2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

5:3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!

5:4 But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief;

5:5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

5:6 So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober;

5:7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night.

5:8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

5:9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

5:10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25:14-30

25:14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them;

25:15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

25:16 The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents.

25:17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.

25:18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

25:19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

25:20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.'

25:21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

25:22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.'

25:23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

25:24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed;

25:25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

25:26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?

25:27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.

25:28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.

25:29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.

25:30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"