



Community Presbyterian Church

Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time
1 September 2024

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

How Deep the Father's Love

*Call to Worship

(One) The Kingdom of God is both now and yet to come.

(All) A tiny mustard seed was sown. When it had grown into a great bush, the birds of the air came and made nests in it.

(One) The Kingdom of God is both now and yet to come.

(All) A woman took a small amount of yeast and kneaded it into some flour. All of the dough was leavened.

(One) The Kingdom of God is both now and yet to come.

(All) A treasure was hidden in a field. Someone found it and joyfully sold all he had to buy the field.

(One) The Kingdom of God is both now and yet to come.

(All) A merchant in search of fine pearls, finds one of great value. He sells all of his possessions and buys it.

(One) The Kingdom of God is both now and yet to come.

Let all who have ears, hear.

Opening Prayer

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 15

(One) O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

(All) Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right and speak the truth from their heart; who do not slander with their tongue.

(One) Those who do no evil to their friends nor heap shame upon their neighbors, in whose eyes the wicked are despised.

(All) Those who honor the ones who fear the LORD; who stand by their oath even to their hurt; who do not lend money at interest and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

(One) Those who do these things shall never be moved.

*Chant of Taizé

The Kingdom of God

*The Kingdom of God is justice and peace,
and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come Lord, and open in us,
the gates of Your Kingdom.*

Prayer of Confession

(All) God of Forgiveness, we come before you today with humble and contrite hearts. Together, we confess our sinfulness before you. We confess that we don't always show your love to others. Forgive us for our apathy. Help us to forgive ourselves and those who seek forgiveness from us, that You may be glorified in us as we share Your love. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

PROCLAMATION

Old Testament Reading *Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9*
New Testament Reading *James 1:17-27*
Gospel Reading *Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23*

Sermon

RESPONSE

*Chant of Taizé *The Kingdom of God*

*The Kingdom of God is justice and peace,
and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come Lord, and open in us,
the gates of Your Kingdom.*

*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

For the Beauty of the Earth

Community Presbyterian Church

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Pianist/Worship Leader: Amy Humphreys

Liturgist: Glenda Vanden Bosch-Walker

SCRIPTURES

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

God's law: sign of a great nation

"So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you. You must observe them and perform them, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!' For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? "But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children--

James 1:17-27

Be doers of the word

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave birth to us by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, for human anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word

and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act--they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Authentic religion

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash, and there are also many other traditions that they observe: the washing of cups and pots and bronze kettles and beds.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' "You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they

defile a person." Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."