

ORDER OF WORSHIP
16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023
10:25AM

HYMN SING

Mary Jo Cox, piano

WORDS OF GREETING

One: We observe this day as the Lord's Day,
giving thanks to God,

**All: who gives justice to the oppressed,
who forgives us and redeems us,
and crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.
Let us worship the One who is
worthy of our praise!**

WELCOME

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

INTROIT

O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord

Hal Hopson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Norma Richardson

One: People of God, bless the Lord,

All: bless God's holy name.

One: For as the heavens are high above the earth,

All: so great is God's steadfast love for us.

*HYMN No. 301

Let Us Build a House

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*CALL TO CONFESSION

(Silent Confession)

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Judge, we admit we have double standards. We seek forgiveness for ourselves, but fail to forgive others. We seek relief for ourselves, but fail to seek relief for others. We seek leniency for ourselves, but fail to show that mercy to others. Forgive us, mighty God, and help us to forgive, showing others the same grace and mercy that you have generously shown to us. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*RESPONSE No. 591

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

(sing twice)

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PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

CHILDREN’S OFFERING; BLESSING

Congregation: **May the Lord go with you as you worship and learn together.**

Children: May the Lord be with you as you worship here.

Congregation: **Go in peace.**

Children: We go in peace. Amen.

During the response to the Passing of the Peace, newborns through 5th grade are invited to come forward to the chancel steps for the blessing. After the blessing, they will be dismissed to the Nursery and to the Children's Worship Center in the lower level for the Children and Worship time. Please pick up your child from the Nursery or Worship Center when they have finished their time of worship.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 103:1-13

Amen. **Amen.**

ANTHEM

Come, Holy Spirit, God and Lord

Aaron David Miller

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 18:21-35

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

“Forgiveness is ...”

Andrew Miller

Question of the day: Share a time when you have had to forgive someone and a time when you were the recipient of forgiveness.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.22*

New life in Christ takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God’s grace. Amen.

*HYMN No. 445

God, How Can We Forgive

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(If you have a prayer of concern or joy, please text 989-954-3297.)

MORNING PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven: hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Tim Fitzgerald

(Purpose of the meeting is to hear a report for the Nominating Team for the election of Ruling Elders and Deacons for the Class of 2026.)

*HYMN No. 754

Help Us Accept Each Other

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*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

Rosamond Herklots

*POSTLUDE

Jubilant Ringing

Phil Lehenbauer

*NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS, SO GO IN PEACE AND SERVE THE LORD

Notes:

*Stand in body and spirit.

Worship Leaders: Mary Jo Cox; Norma Richardson; The Chancel Choir; Andrew Miller

The Prayers and Concern of the Congregation are extended to:

Sandy Armstrong, Scott Campbell (Andrew & Martha Miller's friend), Dana Hendershot (Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran), Betty Gempel, Pat Campbell, Jillian & Flynn Gray, Clarice Miller (Andrew Miller's Mother), Martha Loubert (sister-in-law of John, Pete, and Sheri Loubert), Heidi Long, Lois Miller, Jaime Love (brother of Kevin Love), Louisa Ellis (Jeff & Cam Ellis granddaughter), Olivia Geisthardt (friend of Anna Clare Miller), Suzanne Hand, Charles Loubert, Jim Gilbert, Peter and Verna Russell, Lois Kerr, Sarah Gilbert, Joyce McNabb, Colleen Long, Lavona Osborne. Cathy Chang, Juan Lopez, and Noah Lapp, Vowles Elementary, Trinity United Presbyterian, Flint, MI, Reformed Church in Africa, and the Nutrition club of Community Compassion Network.

Offering

If you are joining us for worship in-person and would like to give an offering, please place your offering in an offering plate. You can also give your pledge, per capita payment, or offering by mailing it to the church office: First Presbyterian Church, 1250 Watson Road, Mt. Pleasant, 48858. You can also give an offering by going to the church's website, www@fpcmp.org and hit the "Give Now" button or use the QR Code,



Please join us for a time of fellowship after worship in the Witherspoon Room.

Peanut Butter

The food pantry of Community Compassion Network needs peanut butter. Please bring it to the church and we will make sure it is taken to the Strickler Center and given to the food pantry.

Gil and Elinor Rau Choral Scholar Fund Needs Money!

Many years ago, former choir members Gil and Elinor Rau established a fund to provide talented college students a small stipend to participate in our chancel choir. These students enrich the choir, enabling us to take on more challenging repertoire, and help provide a more meaningful worship experience for all of us. In turn, they become a part of our church family. Many have stayed in touch over the years, keeping contact long after they're gone. This fund is solely based on donations from the congregation, and right now we are running low! We anticipate having four college students this coming year, but we will need to shore up the fund to make this happen. The cost for an entire year for four students is \$6000. If you would like to sponsor one student, the cost is \$1500. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated! If you would like to donate, checks can be made out to First Presbyterian Church with "Gil Rau Fund" in the memo line. Please see Mary Jo Cox if you have any questions. We appreciate your support!