

ORDER OF WORSHIP
17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 24, 2023
10:30AM

PRELUDE

Reflection on AR HYD NOS
Mary Jo Cox, organ

Dennis Janzer

WORDS OF GREETING

One: God has done mighty things!

All: God is awesome! God is great!

One: We celebrate God's abundant goodness!

All: Sing aloud of God's righteousness!

WELCOME

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

INTROIT

Come Into God's Presence

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jean Winther

One: Whether we embrace God's call in our lives
or try to avoid it,

**All: God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

One: Whether we are long-timers or latecomers
in the life of faith,

**All: God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

One: Whether our lives in Christ are comfortable
or bring hardship,

**All: God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
We praise God's name forever and ever!**

*HYMN No. 619

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

*CALL TO CONFESSION

(Silent Confession)

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of generosity, we find ourselves bitter when faced with your abundant grace. We believe ourselves more deserving than others. We nurse our anger and resentment at those you forgive, instead of rejoicing in the abundant love you show. Forgive us when we wish your grace was scarce. Forgive the double standards we hold. Help us to know that we are all in need of your grace, and help us rejoice as we all greatly receive your mercy. 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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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

Jonah 3:10-4:11

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

ANTHEM

O For a Shout of Sacred Joy

Robert Jordahl

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 20:1-16

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

REFLECTION

“Learnings from a Crazy Business Model”

Andrew Miller

Question of the day: What can we learn about God from a crazy landowner’s business model?

*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. 36

For the Fruit of All Creation

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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.

*HYMN No. 724 v.1,4 *O Jesus, I Have Promised* (vs. 1,4)

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE *The Lord Bless You* Hal Hopson

*POSTLUDE Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven Franklin Ritter

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

Notes:

*Stand in body and spirit.

Worship Leaders: Mary Jo Cox; JeanWinther; 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), 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, Unity Presbyterian, Flint, MI, United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, and Isabella County Restoration House Rotating Homeless Shelter.

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

Thank you so much for your generous donations! We are fully funded for this year. We will happily continue to accept donations as we want to keep this fund healthy for future years. Keep an eye out in this space for upcoming articles about our 2023-24 Choral Scholars.