

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 27, 2024

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Meditation before Worship

Open our eyes, Lord. Help us to see Jesus as he reaches out to heal our blindness. Help us to let go of all those things that keep us in darkness. This day, as your word is proclaimed, let our hearts and souls respond with joy. Transform our lives to do your will. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

arr. Anna Laura Page

Welcome and Announcements

Introit “Heavenly Father, Bless Thy Children”

J.D. Jones, 1846

Heavenly Father, bless thy children;
Harken from thy throne on high;
Loving Savior, Holy Spirit,
Hear and heed our humble cry:
Pardon freely, all our sins forevermore.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: In the midst of darkness, there is light.

People: In the midst of blindness, we will be given sight.

Leader: Our Savior, Jesus Christ, brings healing love to us.

People: Let the light of Jesus' love break through our blindness and fill our world with glory.

Leader: Tear away the bonds that trap us in darkness, Lord.

People: Wipe away all our fears so that we may boldly proclaim your love.

All: Transform our lives, reform our souls, bring us to a new day in your kingdom, O Lord. Amen!

***Hymn**

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

#452

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

We think that we want to be healed of our blindness, gracious God, but actually we have become so comfortable in our darkness that we fear the light. It is as though we are living in a cave, and rather than take a risk to face the light, we prefer to face the dark wall. Give us courage to take risks which will result in not only our own transformation, but also the transformation opportunities for others. Forgive our stubborn insistence on living in darkness. Take our hands and lead us to the light. Amen. (*Silent prayer of confession*)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn** “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart” (v 1)

#688

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children’s Sermon

First Scripture Reading

Hebrew 7:23-28

Choir Anthem “Tune My Heart to Sing Thy Grace” arr. Stan Pethel, 2023

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;

Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise:

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;

Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I'm come;

And I hope by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home:

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;

He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.
Tune my heart to sing thy grace.

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 10:46-52

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “What To Do When No One Will Help” Pastor Steven Watters

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again 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 the life everlasting. Amen.

***Hymn**

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

#726

Prayers of the People and the 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

***Response**

Doxology

#606

*Prayer of Dedication

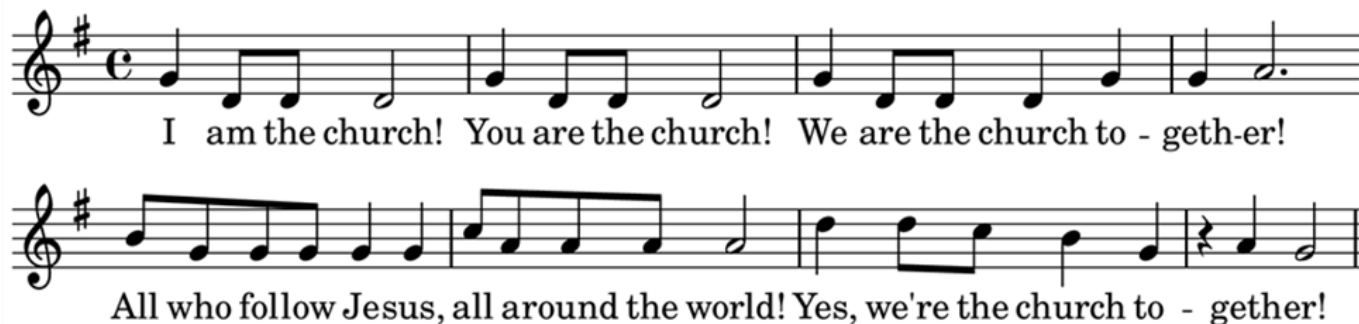
The Sending of God's People

*Closing Hymn "Sometimes a Light Surprises"

#800

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Response "We Are the Church"



I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!

All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - geth-er!

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*Postlude

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

arr. Wilbur Held

Pastors: Steven A. Watters
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd
Organist: Carol Welk

Liturgist: Carole Sue Ames

Our liturgist, Carole Sue Ames, grew up in Lafayette and attended the Methodist Church. When she moved into London at the age of 15, she began to attend the First Presbyterian Church when it was located on Walnut Street. She loves her church family dearly and following the path that God has laid out for her.

Carole married Bill Ames in 1956, and they had 5 sons, 18 grandchildren, and 16 great grandchildren. Carole enjoys swimming and golfing. She loves to travel whenever possible, and has been active in our church choir since 1970.