

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 20, 2023

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

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, you are the powerful creator of the universe, but you know us by name. You are the ground of all being, yet you choose to dwell among us. You are the eternal one, yet you are present in this very moment. Call us by name, be with us, be present to us as we center our attention on you. Enlarge our hope this day with the renewed awareness that your reign has entered this earth in Jesus Christ our Lord. You have conquered the power of evil. Your forgiveness has defeated the ultimate power of sin. You have come among us to put an end to death. Renew your gift of hope among Jesus' followers today. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

"Allegro di Molto"

C.P.E. Bach (1714-1788)

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Prayer Pal

Melissa Canney

Introit

"Gavotte"

J. B. Lully; Matthew Neely, violin

"Berceuse"

Franz Schubert; David Neely, cello

"Long, Long Ago"

T. H. Bayly; Noah Neely violin

"Go Tell Aunt Rhody"

Folk Song; Kirsten Neely, violin

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Come, brothers and sisters, everyone is welcome here.

People: God's people are many—of every land and race, of every age and every condition.

Leader: We gather to celebrate God's mercy and revelation to us in Jesus Christ.

People: Through him, we are one big family.

Leader: Let us praise and worship our God!

***Hymn**

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

#610

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

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

Forgive us, O God, for thinking we have you all figured out. We pretend we know who is in and who is out of your family, as if your care were not for all of us. We want people to be like us before we help them, and we welcome into our company only those who will benefit us. Forgive us. Reconcile us to those we have treated as worthless or unwanted; mold us into a community where all your children are accepted, included, and loved. Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn**

“Gloria Patri”

#581

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children's Sermon

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Quartet "Hear the Good News of Salvation"

arr. John Lloyd

Laura and Matthew Neely, violin

Thaddeus and David Neely, cello

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 15:21-28

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Justa, Our Advocate”

Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

Confession of Belhar (10.5)

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ.

We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

We believe that God’s life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God’s life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

***Hymn**

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

#318

Blessing of the Backpacks

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**

“Give Thanks”

#647

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sending of God's People

*Closing Hymn

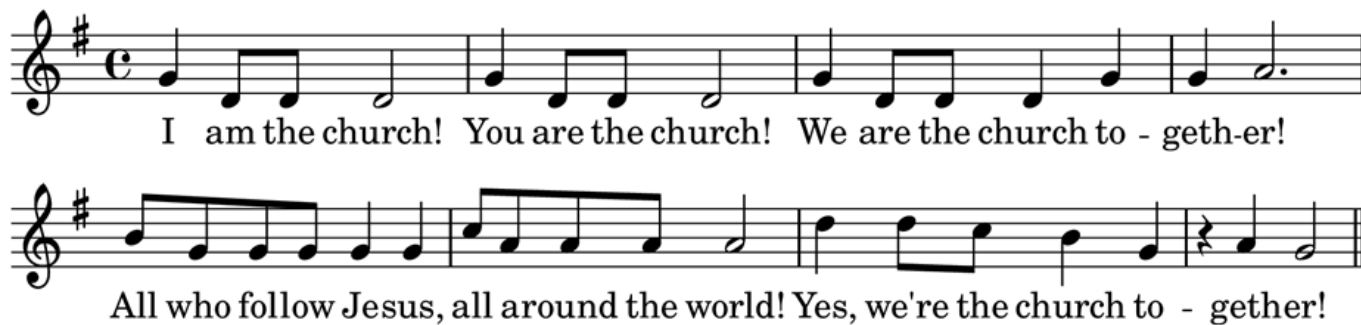
"Help Us Accept Each Other"

#754

*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

"O for a World"

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Pastors: Désirée M. Youngblood
Steve Watters

Liturgist: Connie Dwyer

Flowers: Melissa & Jim Canney

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

String Players: The Neely Family

Acolytes: Devin Griggs

The flowers on the altar are in remembrance of Melissa's mother, Peggy De Tombe, with joy on her birthday today.

Our liturgist, Connie Dwyer, is a life-long member of First Presbyterian Church. She is an Elder and Deacon, and currently serves as Clerk of Session. She also volunteered as the first administrator of Community Nursery School, now Presbyterian Child Center. Connie is a retired London City Schools teacher. She and her husband, TJ, have three sons and daughters-in-law, and four grandchildren. Time with family, reading, running, traveling, skiing, and gardening are favorite ways to spend her days. Connie also volunteers at London Elementary School, Madison Health, and as a docent at the Columbus Museum of Art.