

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 18, 2024

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

Silent Prayer of Preparation

God of song, lift up our hearts today so that our worship may be more than words and music. Let our spirits ascend to those heights of joy and glory that are your gifts to your people. May we recognize you in the faces that surround us this day. May our lives become an expression of your living Word. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

“Thanks Be to God”

arr. Anna Laura Page

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

“Adagio”

G.P. Telemann, 1681-1767

***Call to Worship (Psalm 24)**

Leader: Come, let us worship Almighty God.

People: Let us lift up our songs, our prayers, our praises to him.

Leader: Come, let us honor Jesus Christ.

People: Let us love Christ with our hearts, our minds, our spirits.

Leader: Come, let us be filled with the Spirit of the living Lord.

People: Breathe in us and on us, Breath of God, that we may live wisely and rejoice in you always.

***Hymn**

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

#286

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

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

God of glory, you offer us everything, yet we are content with false gods, who give us little or nothing. We prefer a place of pride that protects an imagined border between ourselves and others. You invite us to share a hymn with all creation, whose notes include the lives of everything that breathes, yet we stop our ears to the wonder. This is your day. We surrender ourselves to you. We lift up our voices to sing. Amen. (*Silent prayer of confession*)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn** “All Creatures of Our God and King” (v. 6) #15

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children’s Sermon

First Scripture Reading 1 Kings 3:3-14

Duet “Allegro” G. P. Telemann

Second Scripture Reading Ephesians 5:15-20

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “Spiritual Direction for Our Journey” Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith** The Heidelberg Catechism 4.127

Leader: What does the sixth petition mean?

People: “And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one” means: By ourselves we are too weak to hold our own even for a moment. And our sworn enemies—the devil, the world, and our own flesh—never stop attacking us.

And so, Lord, uphold us and make us strong with the strength of your Holy Spirit, so that we may not go down to defeat in this spiritual struggle, but may firmly resist our enemies until we finally win the complete victory.

***Hymn** “O God in Whom All Life Begins” #308

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** “This Is My Father’s World” #370

***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 - gether!

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***Postlude** “Now Thank We All Our God” arr. Charles Callahan

Pastor: Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Liturgist: Connie Dwyer

Flowers: Marjorie Hopkin

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Soloists: Nik Engelhart, flute

Thomas Lloyd, oboe

The flowers are in recognition of Marjorie's granddaughters' birthdays, Elizabeth & Zoe. Also to lift up blessings for the new school year.

Our liturgist, Connie Dwyer, is a life-long member of First Presbyterian Church. She is an Elder and Deacon, and has served as Clerk of Session. A retired London City Schools teacher, she also volunteered as the first administrator of Community Nursery School, now Presbyterian Child Center. 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. She also volunteers at London Elementary School, Madison Health, and as a docent at the Columbus Museum of Art.