

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 25, 2024

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

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Living God, your Son Jesus Christ has the words of eternal life. Grant that we may come to him in faith, follow him in this world, and abide with him forever in the world to come; for he dwells with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

“The Lord Is God”

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: God is with us wherever we go; let us together recognize God's presence here.

People: God is the Creator of our lives and does not abandon us on life's pilgrimage.

Leader: God relates to us as a Parent: loving, chastening, and disciplining.

People: We have known the steadfast love of God both when we are faithful and when we stray.

Leader: We live in covenant with God, who is our rock and our salvation.

People: We hear God calling us to service, offering us strength to overcome our weaknesses. Let us respond to God's call and worship his holy name.

***Hymn**

“Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

#721

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

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

God of grace, we did not realize when first we heard Christ's call just how difficult it would be to follow him. We have so often stumbled and fallen on the discipleship road. We confess that much of our failure is neglect to do our part, to avail ourselves of the means that will prepare us to be strong and steadfast. We learn so slowly how dependent we are on the strength you provide through disciplined spiritual preparation to meet the challenges that face us. Forgive our resistance, negligence, and reluctance to be self-denying disciples. Amen.

(Silent prayer of confession)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn**

“Gloria Patri”

#581

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children's Sermon and Blessing of the Backpacks

First Scripture Reading

John 6:56-69

Men's Ensemble Anthem “Bound for Jubilee”

Joyce Eilers, 1979

The word “Jubilee” has biblical origin, and signifies a glorious time of liberation from bondage, often synonymous with heaven.

(refrain) Hallelu, I am on my way, bound for Jubilee!

Oh my brother, won't you come with me?

Oh my sister, you must come today.

Or the devil might come and take you away 'fore you get to Jubilee! (refrain)

My Lord's calling, I must go with Him, can't you hear Him calling you today.

Or the devil might come and take me away 'fore you get to Jubilee! (refrain)

Second Scripture Reading

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-15

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Response to the Word***Affirmation of Faith**

The Scot’s Confession (3.01)

We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. By whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by his inscrutable providence for such end as his eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of his own glory.

***Hymn**

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

#724

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

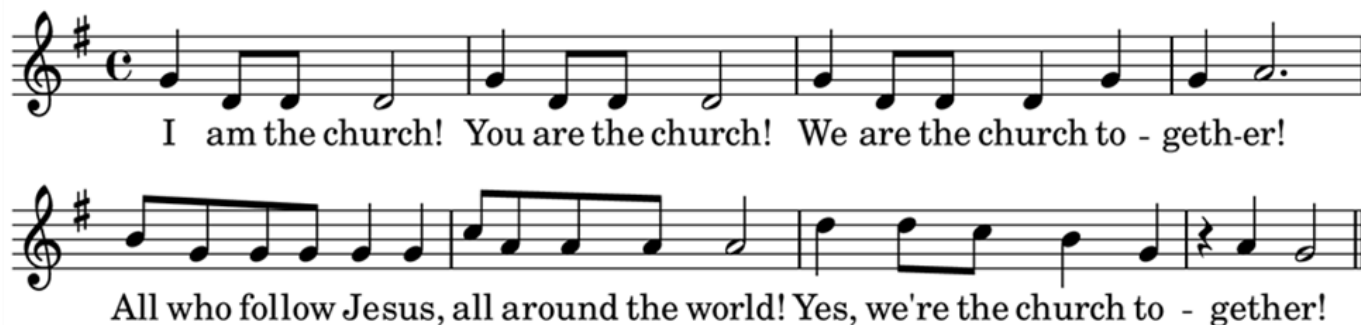
Prayer of Dedication*The Sending of God’s People*****Closing Hymn**

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

Insert

***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

“A Mighty Fortress”

arr. Anna Laura Page

Pastor: Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood
Steve Watters

Liturgist: Connie Dwyer

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Flowers: Melissa Canney

The flowers are given in loving memory of Melissa's parents, Bob & Peggy De Tombe who were married August 25, 1962. May God be praised for their marriage and may they be blessed with a joyful heavenly celebration!

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.