



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God
November 12, 2023

Stewardship Sunday

**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

Prelude – *Lovely*

Michael Helman
The Handbell Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 9

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

I will be glad and exult in you; I will praise your name, O Most High.

The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed;

a stronghold in times of trouble.

Those who know your name and put their trust in you;

for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.

Be gracious to me, O Lord, so that I may recount all your praises;

and in the gates of daughter Zion rejoice in your deliverance.

Come, let us worship God.

*HYMN 473 (V.1-5)

For the Beauty of the Earth

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord of all, we do raise our hymns of grateful praise for the beauty of this earth, and for your love from our birth. We have come to expect great things from you. But the trouble is that you seem to expect great things from us as well. Lord, there are many times when we do not feel that we have great things to offer. Our resources are limited and allocated to more important things. Our talents are not spectacular and are hardly worth mentioning. And our time – well, Lord – there just isn't any more. Forgive us, Lord, for we are a consumed people: consumed by our self-importance; consumed by our list of priorities; and consumed by the belief that we can't make a difference. Send your Spirit into our midst to convince us that in you and through you, we can change the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

Silent prayer

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God understands that we, God's creation, are too often hesitant and unwilling to accept God's will for our lives. That is why God sent Jesus Christ into our midst to build up our fractured selves into wholeness, redemption and salvation. Glory to God. Amen.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 1:26-31

Matthew 25:14-30

SERMON

Internal Rate of Return

Rev. Larry Van Hise

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

Lord, we gather here this morning to offer ourselves to you. We pledge a portion of our personal treasure so we can continue to proclaim your love and mercy to a world in desperate need of knowing you. We pledge a measure of our talents and whether they be limited or exceptional, we offer them up for the building of your Kingdom. And we pledge an allocation of our time so that through our physical efforts, your will in this world will be accomplished.

Lord, we understand that as individuals we are limited. But if we unite as one; if we all grab an oar and pull together, there are no limits to what we can achieve in your name. Lord we humbly offer ourselves up to work for the coming of your Kingdom.

*At this time, you are invited to come forward, if able,
and offer up your pledges by placing them in the basket.*

CONSECRATION OF OUR PLEDGES

**Gracious God, bless our mutual commitment to build and nurture this congregation to spread the good news of the gospel. Guide us in your ways that we may use these offerings of ourselves to further your work in this community and the world. O Lord, may we always be mindful of your will for our lives and the life of this congregation. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, you meet our needs and transform us for service. Accept these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our commitment to witness to Christ's ministry in your world. Amen.

*RESPONSE

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 425 (V.1-4)

Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Thanks Be to Thee

Handel

The flowers on the communion table are given by Ruthann Arras in memory of Wendell Smith.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Larry Van Hise

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Handbell Choir

Darcel Hayes-Bridges, Liturgist

Coffee Hour Hosts: Carol Butler and Jim Middendorf

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed

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