



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



SIMPLE CHURCH
November 13, 2022
The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
**Standing*

WE GATHER

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

Thanks Be to Thee

Handel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF VETERANS

WELCOME

This is the day that God has made!
Let us celebrate and be glad!

*SING

This is the Day

This is the day, *(right side)*

This is the day. *(left side)*

That the Lord has made,

That the Lord has made.

We will rejoice,

We will rejoice,

And be glad in it,

And be glad in it.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day,

This is the day

That the Lord has made. *(all singing together)*

WE LISTEN

Psalm 17

Let everyone, everywhere, come and praise God!
Let everyone praise God.
God's love for us is wonderful;
God's faithfulness never ends.
Shout praises to the Lord!
Amen!

SCRIPTURE

Acts 26:12-18, 20

"One day on my way to Damascus, armed as always with papers from the high priests authorizing my action, right in the middle of the day a blaze of light, light outshining the sun, poured out of the sky on me and my companions. Oh, King, it was so bright! We fell flat on our faces. Then I heard a voice in Hebrew: 'Saul, Saul, why are you out to get me? Why do you insist on going against the grain?'

"I said, 'Who are you, Master?'

"The voice answered, 'I am Jesus, the One you're hunting down like an animal. But now, up on your feet – I have a job for you. I've handpicked you to be a servant and witness to what's happened today, and to what I am going to show you. I'm sending you off to open the eyes of the outsiders so they can see the difference between dark and light, and choose light, see the difference between Satan and God, and choose God. I'm sending you off to present my offer of sins forgiven, and a place in the family, inviting them into the company of those who begin real living by believing in me.'

"I started preaching this life-change – this radical turn to God and everything it meant in everyday life – right there in Damascus, went on to Jerusalem and the surrounding countryside, and from there to the whole world."

LESSON

Pat Koefoed

WE RESPOND

*SING

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in this Place

Hymn 398

**There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know that it's the presence of the Lord.**

**Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love;
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise:
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
When we shall leave this place.**

THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT

This is a guided prayer/meditation structured around the Lord's Prayer. Take several deep breaths. Exhale and release stress; as you breathe in, imagine you are breathing in the light of God.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Name the good things in your life and thank God for them.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Think about how God is working in your life; what might be God's will be for you? Ask God to help you be open and receptive to God's voice and direction.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Lift up your needs, as well as the needs of those around you, to God – be they physical, emotional or spiritual. You may choose to pray for specific outcomes, or you may simply feel and describe the needs to God.

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Spend some time in retrospection, observing the ways in which you hurt others or yourself. Ask God for forgiveness, as well as help in forgiving others and forgiving yourself. Prayerfully let go of bitterness and resentment, and know that this may be a process. If you have felt hurt by God, name your feelings and lift them in prayer. God's love is big enough to hold all of them.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Search inside your heart and find the sources of your fears, lifting them up in prayer. In what ways are those fears manifested in your life? Ask God to free you from those fears. While it is fine to ask God's help in preventing undesirable outcomes, consider also asking for God's peace no matter what happens – even if the worst nightmare comes true.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Take several deep breaths again as you surrender your innermost needs to God. If you tend to hold on to worries, consider tensing the muscles of your hands in a tight fist, and then suddenly releasing them. As you relax your hand, envision that you are letting go of your burdens. Ask for help in entrusting those burdens to God.

GIVE

WE GO

*SING

Song of Hope (*sung twice*)

Hymn 432

**May the God of hope go with us every day,
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace,
Singing, share our joy with all,
Working for a world that's new,
Faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

*SENDING PRAYER

May the grace of God hold you,
The peace of God surround you,
The love of God flow from you
And the strength of God protect you.
Go now to share the grace, peace, love and strength of God with others!

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God (Hymn 555)

arr. Kaufmann

~*~*~

Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Pat Koefoed, Guest Preacher

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

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

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*Each Sunday we sing hymns taken from the blue hymnal provided for you in the pew where you are seated.
Though we print the lyrics to the hymns in the bulletin, we encourage you to turn to the hymnal so you can also
read the accompanying music.*