



# First Presbyterian

## CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God

November 14, 2021

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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

### WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

Tallis' Canon (Hymn 542)

arr. McChesney

The Handbell Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, you who are weary.

**We come and seek God's power.**

Come, you who are anxious.

**We come and seek Christ's peace.**

Come, you who are burdened.

**We come and seek the Spirit's love.**

Come to a restful place, to a grace-full place, come stand with Jesus. Amen.

\*HYMN No. 376, V.1-3

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit,  
Let us find the promised rest;  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above;  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.

### **WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD**

#### PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

**God of mercy, our need is great. The pandemic has left us tired, anxious and uncertain. We have stretched beyond our limits and numbed ourselves to our pain. We have accepted getting by as good enough. We have rejected your offers of spiritual food. Help us, Holy God, to acknowledge and confess our need. Help us embrace your command for Sabbath rest. Help us care for ourselves so we can continue to care for others.**

*Silent Prayer*

**Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God, I say – in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

**And also with you!**

\*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**

#### RESPONSIVE READING

Inspired by Psalm 40; written by Donna Hardy

I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me...

Poor, needy, bogged down, I waited, cried out, waited still.

**Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.**

The Beloved heard my cry, bent down, lifted me from the mire,  
set my feet on solid ground, gave me a new song.

**Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.**

I sing now of love, of kindness, of tender mercies not withheld.

Listen and proclaim!

**Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 7:24-27

SERMON

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

ANTHEM

When Will People Cease Their Fighting?

Text: Constance Cherry

Composer: C. Hubert H. Parry; tune: Rustington

When will people cease their fighting?  
When will armies wage no war,  
Nations conquer not their neighbor,  
Weapons idle, used no more?  
When will guns and bombs be silent?  
When will captives be set free?  
All creation groans in longing  
For the world's true liberty.

Floods and earthquakes, drought and famine  
Plague the world with awesome ill,  
But far greater is war's horror  
Caused by human, stubborn will.  
Blest are those who, working, praying,  
Purpose in their hearts to be  
Instruments of peace, committed  
To the nations' harmony.

As we strive for peace with vigor,  
Hoping to be shown the way,  
We are strengthened in the knowledge  
Of a future, perfect day;  
For we know that deeper, richer  
Peace is ours when Christ shall reign:  
Then will all our swords be plowshares  
And God's children free from pain.

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

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.**

\*HYMN No. 379, V. 1, 2

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

My hope is built on nothing less  
Thank Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.

\*DEDICATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

*The Psalms urge us to give thanks to God at all times, for everything God has provided. In gratitude, we offer to God a portion of what God has given to us. Please leave your offering in the plate in the back of the sanctuary or make your gifts online or via mail.*

\*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.**

**WE GO IN GOD'S NAME**

CHARGE

Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders us and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us with our eyes fixed on Christ.

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May God's face shine with delight and look upon you with favor. And may you rest forever in God's peace.

POSTLUDE

We Gather Together (Hymn 559)

arr. Fisk

*The flowers on the Communion Table are given in memory of Kevin Martin,  
by Bud and Linda Martin.*

~\*~\*~

Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

The Handbell Choir

Darcel Hayes-Bridges, Liturgist

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

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**Matthew 7:24-27**

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who builds his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell – and great was its fall!”