



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God

July 30, 2023

The Ninth 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

Summer Hymn Medley

from the Presbyterian Hymnal

Susan Charlton, flute

Art Charlton, guitar

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 119

O Lord, your decrees are wonderful therefore my soul keeps them.

The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

When I open my mouth, I pant, because I long for your commandments.

Turn to me and be gracious to me as is your custom towards those who love your name.

Keep my steps steady according to your promise, and never let iniquity have dominion over me.

Redeem me from human oppression that I may keep your precepts.

Make your face shine upon your servant, O Lord, and teach me your statutes.

Come, let us worship God.

*HYMN 263 (V.1-4)

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, we praise your name and give thanks for your mercy and compassion for your people. And we call out to you in prayer in the hope that our prayers may be answered in a manner that will give us satisfaction.

But Lord, we admit that at times our requests are a bit too self-centered. We pray for wealth and prosperity rather than for a generous and giving heart. We pray for a certain future full of joy rather than for courage to see us through difficult days. And we pray to be proud and all-knowing rather than having a humble and understanding mind. Forgive us, O Lord, for our inward focus and send your Spirit to help us attain the wisdom to live out a life that is right according to your will. In Jesus' name we pray.

Silent prayer

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear now, you children of God. The mercy and love of the Lord is without limits or exceptions. The Lord has heard our prayers for forgiveness and redemption and through the love and grace of Jesus Christ, those prayers are surely answered. Be at peace and rejoice in that saving grace.

*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

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-15

Romans 13:1-7

SERMON

Exercising Solomon's Wisdom

Rev. Vernon Van Hise

ANTHEM

Hymn Reflections

from the Presbyterian Hymnal
Susan Charlton, flute
Art Charlton, guitar

INSTALLATION OF RULING ELDERS

STATEMENT OF THE NATURE OF MINISTRIES

PRESENTATION

**previously ordained*

Elders

Candy Gulotta*

Nancy Udut*

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

Do we, the members of the First Presbyterian Church of Easton, accept as Ruling Elders these who have been called and chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is the Head of the Church?

We do.

PRAYER AND THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

*All previously ordained Teaching and Ruling Elders are invited to come forward
to join in prayer and the laying on of hands.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Humbled by God's generosity, let us offer our gifts to God and God's ministries through Christ's church.

Please leave your offering in the box at the front of the sanctuary or make your gifts online or via mail.

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 364 (V.1-3)

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude in C Minor

Chopin

Worship Leaders

Rev. Vernon Van Hise

Bud Martin, Guest Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

Noralee Manzek, Liturgist

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

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