



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God

August 20, 2023

The Twelfth 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

In the Hour of Deepest Need

J. S. Bach

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalms 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us;
that your way be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God, let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity.

*HYMN 461 (V.1-4)

God Is Here!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, keep us faithful to the gospel, help us work your purpose out. But, Lord of all, we confess this morning that in our efforts to work out your purposes, we find ourselves at times wandering away, side stepping out of the pathway you intend for us to follow.

We leave your well-marked trail and stumble over the rocks and ruts of our traditions, our customs and our prejudices rather than keeping our eyes focused and our hearts open to see the new reality of love, faithfulness, mercy and grace that your kingdom promises to provide for all humanity today, and for the salvation that awaits us at the end of our journey. Send your Spirit to guide and direct us in your ways, O Lord, today and tomorrow. In Jesus' name we pray.

Silent prayer

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Know this, you saints of the church, that no matter the frequency of our stumbles and falls in life, no matter how far we drift from God's purposes, through the grace purchased for us by Jesus Christ, we are forgiven people. 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

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Matthew 15:1-28

SERMON

Tangled in Tradition

Rev. Vernon Van Hise

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.**

THE 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 439 (V.1-4)

In Christ There Is No East or West

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Jesu, Priceless Treasure

J. S. Bach

Worship Leaders

Rev. Vernon Van Hise

Bud Martin, Guest Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

Ruthann Arras, Liturgist

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

* Music reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE. All rights reserved.