



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God
September 18, 2022
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

There Is a Balm in Gilead (Hymn 394)

arr. Gilbert Martin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, unconditional love of God.

For once we felt so far away; now we have been welcomed home.

Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!

Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.

AMEN!

*HYMN 280, V.1-5

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

RESPONSIVE READING

based on Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"
Let us go to the house of the Lord!

Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem – built as a city that is bound firmly together.
We are standing in your presence, God!

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers."
We seek your peace here, God.

For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say,
"Peace be within you."
Peace be within you!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Generous God, you have enriched us with life worth living. We confess we often squander your good gifts. We have wasted our time and energy. We hold too tightly to things we do not need. Forgive our foolish priorities. Forgive those times we overlook those in true need. Inspire us to live more generously, trusting your goodness to sustain us always. Open us to your welcoming love, that each day may be a new start.

Silent prayer

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends in Christ, while it is true that we have squandered God's good gifts, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. Trust the mercy of God, and be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another.

*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 READING

Luke 15:11-32

SERMON

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

ANTHEM

Anthem of Gladness

Joseph M. Martin

I was glad when they said unto me,
"Let us go into the house of the Lord."
This is the day the Lord has made.
I will delight and be glad in it.
This is a time designed for praise.
Let every heart reflect God's grace.

Serve the Lord with gladness.
Serve Him all your days.
Come into His presence
with your songs of praise.

Bring your glad thanksgiving.
Bring your joyful song.
Bring your faithful service.
Let your light be strong.

Lift your voices now as one.
Tell the world what God has done.
Shout the news to every nation.
Go forth with joy. Go with light.
Go with grace for all creation.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing!
O sing unto the Lord.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice!

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Gifted with the grace of God, let us offer ourselves to the building of God's kingdom.

OFFERING PRAYER

Bless the gifts given in thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all, that we might serve you and your people with great love. In Christ's name, amen.

**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

God, speak to us...
Embrace us with your love.

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 333, V. 1-2

Seek Ye First

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you,
Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Alleu, alleluia!

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

Go with confidence and commitment, to serve God in ways large and small for the sake of Christ, our friend and Savior. And may God bless you and keep you; may God's face shine upon you, and bring you joy and peace, now and evermore. Amen.

POSTLUDE

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand (Hymn 262)

The Chancel Choir invites you to join them for coffee hour after the service.

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Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

Mercy Barrow, Liturgist

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.

Luke 15:11-32

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had, and traveled to a distant country and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."'

So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe – the best one – and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now, his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I've been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you never given me even a young goat so I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"