



# First Presbyterian

## CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God

September 3, 2023

The Fourteenth 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

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (Hymn 521)

Finest Wheat; arr. Carter

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalms 26

Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity;

**and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.**

Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and mind.

**For your steadfast love is before my eyes,**

and I walk in faithfulness with you.

**I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O Lord;**

singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and telling all of your wondrous deeds.

**O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.**

**Come, let us worship God.**

\*HYMN 460 (V.1-4)

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we praise your name and sing the chorus that your reign will be everlasting. Also, everlasting are our expectations of you, O Lord. For in our arrogance and self-centeredness, we dare claim that we know you fully and because we do, we have complete knowledge of just what we can expect from you. O Lord, forgive us for our frail humanity and for placing our demands of you before your expectations of us. Send your Spirit to be among us, to guide us in your ways and to enable us to fully understand and accept your will for our lives. In Jesus' name we pray.**

*Silent prayer*

**Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

By acknowledging and accepting our brokenness, we place ourselves before the Lord in humbleness and rejoice in the knowledge that through the grace of God earned for us by our Lord, Jesus Christ, that we are forgiven and redeemed people. Praise the Lord. 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

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Matthew 16:21-28

### HOMILY

Great Expectations!

Rev. Vernon Van Hise

### INSTALLATION OF A RULING ELDER

### STATEMENT OF THE NATURE OF MINISTRIES

### PRESENTATION

Elder  
Darcel Hayes-Bridges\*

*\*previously ordained*

### CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

### QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

Do we, the members of the First Presbyterian Church of Easton, accept as a Ruling Elder this candidate who has 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 her, to encourage her, to respect her decisions and to follow as she guides us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is the Head of the Church?

**We do.**

### PRAYER

## 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 SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

#### THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### PRAYER

With fresh eyes and renewed hope, we join our voices with those around the world and with your heavenly chorus of all the saints to sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

#### PRAYER

...Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF GOD'S 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 344 (V.1-3)

Christ of the Upward Way

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

I Come with Joy (Hymn 507)

Dove of Peace; arr. Carter

*The flowers on the communion table are given by Ruthann Arras  
in honor of Naomi Smith's 108<sup>th</sup> birthday.*

Worship Leaders

Rev. Vernon Van Hise

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

Linda Martin, Liturgist

Carol Butler and Linda Martin, Communion Servers

Susan Charlton, Coffee Hour Host

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

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