



First Presbyterian Church Sunday, September 17, 2023



Seeking the Faith – Sharing the Spirit – Serving God’s People

You are invited to join us on our journey of faith! We seek to serve God, to minister to our community, and to love one another. Help us in our quest to become an ever more inclusive church that welcomes all people from all backgrounds, abilities, and identities. Come and experience the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.



Order of Worship

Prayer in Preparation

God whose holy name defies our definition, but whose will is known in freeing the oppressed: make us to be one with all who cry for justice; that we who speak your praise may struggle for your truth, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prelude

In the Garden

arr. Jay Rouse

Gathering for Worship

Leader: People of God, bless the Lord,

All: bless God’s holy name.

Leader: For as the heavens are high above the earth,

All: so great is God’s steadfast love for us. Let us worship God.

***Hymn #305**

Come, Sing O Church, in Joy!

Call to Confession

Leader: Amid the countless things that human beings cannot fully comprehend about God, there stands this: God so loves us as to bathe us with grace and forgive our sins.

Confident in the love of God, let confess our sins together.

**Please stand as you are able*

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Gracious and loving God, you lived for us—we have not lived for you.

You have forgiven us—we have not forgiven others.

You have loved us—we have not loved ourselves nor have we loved one another.

Take pity on us and forgive us, God. Help us to forgive. Help us to live for you.

Help us to love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: People of God, our sins are forgiven. God is merciful and gracious and is Lord of us all. Reconciled to the God who loves us, let us live and love through Christ our Lord. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

Giving of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all!

All: And also with you!

***Response #582**

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

(sing twice)

Children's Sermon

Prayer for Illumination

Reader: Holy God, your Word is strong and leads our feet to your holy dwelling place. Strengthen and guide us with your Word through the power of your Holy Spirit; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson Genesis 50:15-21

(OT p. 48)

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Special Music

Come, All Believers

Pepper Choplin

New Testament Lesson Matthew 18:21-22

(NT p. 20)

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?'

Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Proclamation of the Word

Why This Assignment, Jesus?

Rev. Judy Beyler

***Affirmation of Faith:**

Leader: Together, let us confess our faith...

In seeking the faith we commit ourselves to:

All: Celebrating God's love with joyful and dynamic worship

- **Opening ourselves to God's Spirit each day and in new ways**
- **Encountering God by praying for ourselves and others**
- **Wrestling with issues of faith, avoiding both simplistic answers and rigid theologies**
- **Responding to God's call with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.**

***Hymn #2119**

Where the Spirit of the Lord Is

Sing the Faith Hymnal

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Minister: "Friends, this is the joyful feast... ..to share the feast he has prepared."

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Minister: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise...

...we lift our hearts with joyful praise:

All: 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.

Minister: We praise you, most holy God, for sending your only Son Jesus... ..and believe that when he comes in glory, we will celebrate victory with him.

Words of Institution

Minister: We thank you that on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

(The bread is distributed.)

Minister: In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

(The cup is distributed.)

Conclusion of the Prayer

Minister: Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this cup and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicate to your service. Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Minister: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us... ..forever and ever.

All: Amen.

Minute for Mission Peace and Global Witness

Jane Swanson

Invitation to the Offering

Leader: Let us give as God has so abundantly given to us.

Offertory

Etude in D Major, Op. 105, No.4

Burgmuller

*#606 Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

Leader: O God, we thank you for these gifts. Multiply them, and enable the work of love and the righteousness of your kingdom in the world. We thank and praise you. **Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer and Congregational Prayer

Joys and Concerns *(In the bulletin, on cards, or via Zoom Chat)*

Minister: We give thanks to God for these blessings.

All: Thanks be to God!

Minister: For all these people and all who are in need

All: Please hold your people near, O God!

Minister: God inspires us to pray, hears our prayers, and answers our prayers.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

Minister: Let us pray...

Silent Prayer

Minister: Let us pray together...

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

*Hymn #372

O for a World

Announcements

Blessing

Postlude

Mourning Into Dancing

Craig Curry

Moment for Reflection:



Worship Assistants

Bob Luebbers- Greeter
Rosey Gibbs- Worship Assistant
Jiyeon Lee- Accompanist
Elwood Prest- AV Tech

Rob Jensen- Head Usher
Carolyn Hooker- Scripture Reader
Carlyn Zimmermann- Special Music
Wendi Zea- Zoom Greeter

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary and via Zoom
Coffee Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

Noon Presbyterian Women
7:00 pm Session

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

10:00 am Bible Study with Bill and JP
3:30 pm Bible Study with Pastor Kerry
6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

5:30 pm Dinner Group

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary and via Zoom
Coffee Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

Pastor Kerry's Office Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

If you would like a visit—or if you know someone who needs a visit—please let Pastor Kerry or one of the Deacons know.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please fill out **Joys and Concerns** cards at the back of the sanctuary prior to the beginning of worship. The cards are on the table as you enter, and there is a basket to put the completed cards in. If you are participating via Zoom, use the Chat feature to let the Zoom Greeter know what your Joys and Concerns are (please complete asap during the service.)

We thank **Rev. Judy Beyler** for filling the pulpit today.

Presbyterian Women will meet at NOON Tuesday, September 19 for a time of fellowship and study. Bring your own lunch. For more information, contact Diane Cash.

Dinner group will meet at Red Lobster in Marion at 5:30 September 21. Please join us for a night of good food and conversation. Contact Jill at jillhertzing@aol.com or 815-997-2163 to reserve your spot.

We are planning an **OUTDOOR SERVICE** on the green space next to the church Sunday, October 1, 9:30 am, World Communion Sunday, weather permitting. Bring your own lawn chairs and enjoy a lovely service!

Please, as you are able, continue to contribute financially to the life and ministry of the church through Sunday offerings, direct deposit, by sending checks in the mail, online at <http://www.firstprescdale.org> or by scanning this QR code with your smartphone camera.



Joys and Concerns

Remember to Pray for:

- Covid concerns
- Our Democracy in the face of social unrest and political polarization
- Those struggling with addictions and the consequences
- Transgender community under attack legislatively
- Those in the destructive path of natural disasters
- Those affected by threats of terrorism, mass shootings, and hate crimes
- Our National, State, Regional, and Community Leaders
- Those who are homeless, hungry, and in harm's way
- Those in shelters on the southern border
- Those who continue to be marginalized and underrepresented
- Military Service Members: Matthew Baumann

Each week we pray for one of the Carbondale Interfaith Council faith communities.

This week, please pray for: **Good Samaritan Ministries**

The Mission/Ministry we are praying for this month: **Small Groups**

Household Prayer: Morning

Gracious and loving God, thank you for this day. Strengthen my resolve to love and show mercy throughout the day. Lead my feet to your holy dwelling place and guide the work I have to do this day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Merciful God, thank you for keeping me in the safety of your arms and for new mercies and the glory you showed through the day. Keep my family and me through the night. I thank and praise you! In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

#305 Come, Sing O Church in Joy!

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Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long

Refrain In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord.
Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,
empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream! Refrain

Let courage be our friend, let wisdom be our guide, as we in mission magnify the Crucified!
Refrain

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long! Refrain

#582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

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Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

Genesis 50:15-21 (OT p. 48)

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Matthew 18:21-22 (NT p. 20)

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

#2119 Where the Spirit of the Lord Is

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Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is peace
where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is love
there is comfort in life's darkest hour; there is light and life
there is help and power in the Spirit, in the Spirit of the Lord.

#606 Praise God from Who All Blessings Flow (Doxology)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

#372 O for a World

1. O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.
2. O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.
3. We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice,
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.
4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise,
Tell all who mourn; outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.
5. O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.