

**September 27, 2020 +++ 17th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**First Presbyterian Church +++ Mason, Michigan**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Grant us, Lord,  
not to be anxious about earthly cares,  
but to love that which is above,  
and even now,  
while we live among transient things,  
to hold fast to those things that shall endure;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**PRELUDE**

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

Drischner

*4 Variations on "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"*

Crisafulli

*2 Slow Movements from the Organ Voluntaries*

Stanley

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Romans 1:7; Psalm 19:14; Philippians 2:11*

Grace to you and peace  
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!  
Let our words and thoughts be acceptable to God;  
**the Lord is our rock and our redeemer.**  
Let every tongue confess the good news:  
**Jesus Christ is Lord; glory to God!**  
Let us worship God!

**HYMN #95**

**"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"**

CORONATION

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all;  
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall,  
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all;  
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall,  
go, spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all;  
go, spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe, on this terrestrial ball,  
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all;  
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all;  
we'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Romans 5:8; Hebrews 4:16*

The proof of God's amazing love is this:  
While we were sinners Christ died for us.  
Because we have faith in him,  
we dare to approach God with confidence.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Eternal God,  
in whom we live and move and have our being,  
whose face is hidden from us by our sins,  
and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts:  
Cleanse us from all our offenses,  
and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires,  
that with reverent and humble hearts  
we may draw near to you,  
confessing our faults,  
confiding in your grace,  
and finding in you our refuge and strength;  
through Jesus Christ your Son.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*Colossians 2:12*

Hear the good news!

Because we were buried with Christ in these waters,  
we are also raised to life with him.

Believe the gospel!  
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**HYMN #115**

**"Fairest Lord Jesus"**

CRUSADERS' HYMN

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,  
O thou of God and man the Son,  
thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,  
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown!

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,  
robed in the blooming garb of spring:  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,  
and all the twinkling, starry host:  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer,  
than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!  
Son of God and Son of man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,  
now and forevermore be thine!

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*You are invited to share your prayer requests  
via the Chat feature in the livestream (before the end of the previous hymn)  
or by leaving a message on Bill's cell phone (by 9:00 am on Sunday morning).*

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As Jesus teaches us, let us pray  
to the God who gives us birth.

**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.**

#### **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

God has told us what is good;  
and what does the Lord require?  
To do justice, love kindness,  
and walk humbly with our God.

*Micah 6:8*

Let us return to God the offerings of our life

and the gifts of the earth.

**OFFERTORY**

*Meditation No. 2*

Kim

**RESPONSE #809**            **“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”**

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Blessed Lord,  
who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning:  
Grant us so to hear them,  
read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them,  
that we may embrace and ever hold fast  
the blessed hope of everlasting life,  
which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

**Exodus 17:1-7**

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah,\* because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

\* *Massah* means “Test” and *Meribah* means “Quarrel”

**PSALM**

**Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16**

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;  
    incline your ears to the words of my mouth.  
I will open my mouth in a parable;  
    I will utter dark sayings from of old,  
things that we have heard and known,  
    that our ancestors have told us.  
We will not hide them from their children;  
    we will tell to the coming generation

the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,  
and the wonders that he has done.

In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels  
in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.\*  
He divided the sea and let them pass through it,  
and made the waters stand like a heap.  
In the daytime he led them with a cloud,  
and all night long with a fiery light.  
He split rocks open in the wilderness,  
and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.  
He made streams come out of the rock,  
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

*\* Zoan was a city in Egypt, mentioned seven times in the Old Testament. Psalm 78:43 suggests it was the epicenter of the various plagues that God inflicted upon Egypt just prior to the exodus.*

#### **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

#### **Philippians 2:1-13**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**GOSPEL LESSON**

**Matthew 21:23-32**

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

**RESPONSE**

*Revelation 21:5*

These words are trustworthy and true.

**Thanks be to God!**

**ANTHEM**

**"Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"**

LAFFERTY

Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
and its 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;  
Allelu, alleluia!

**SERMON**

**"Christ Jesus: Emptied and Exalted"**

Rev. Bill Pinches

**HYMN #745**

**"Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"**

DUKE STREET

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does its successive journeys run;

his kingdom spread from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,  
and endless praises crown his head;  
his name like sweet perfume shall rise  
with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue  
dwell on his love with sweetest song,  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns;  
the prisoners leap to lose their chains,  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all who suffer want are blessed.

Let all the people rise and bring  
their special honors to our King;  
angels descend with songs again  
and earth repeat the loud Amen.

**BLESSING**

*Psalm 121:8*

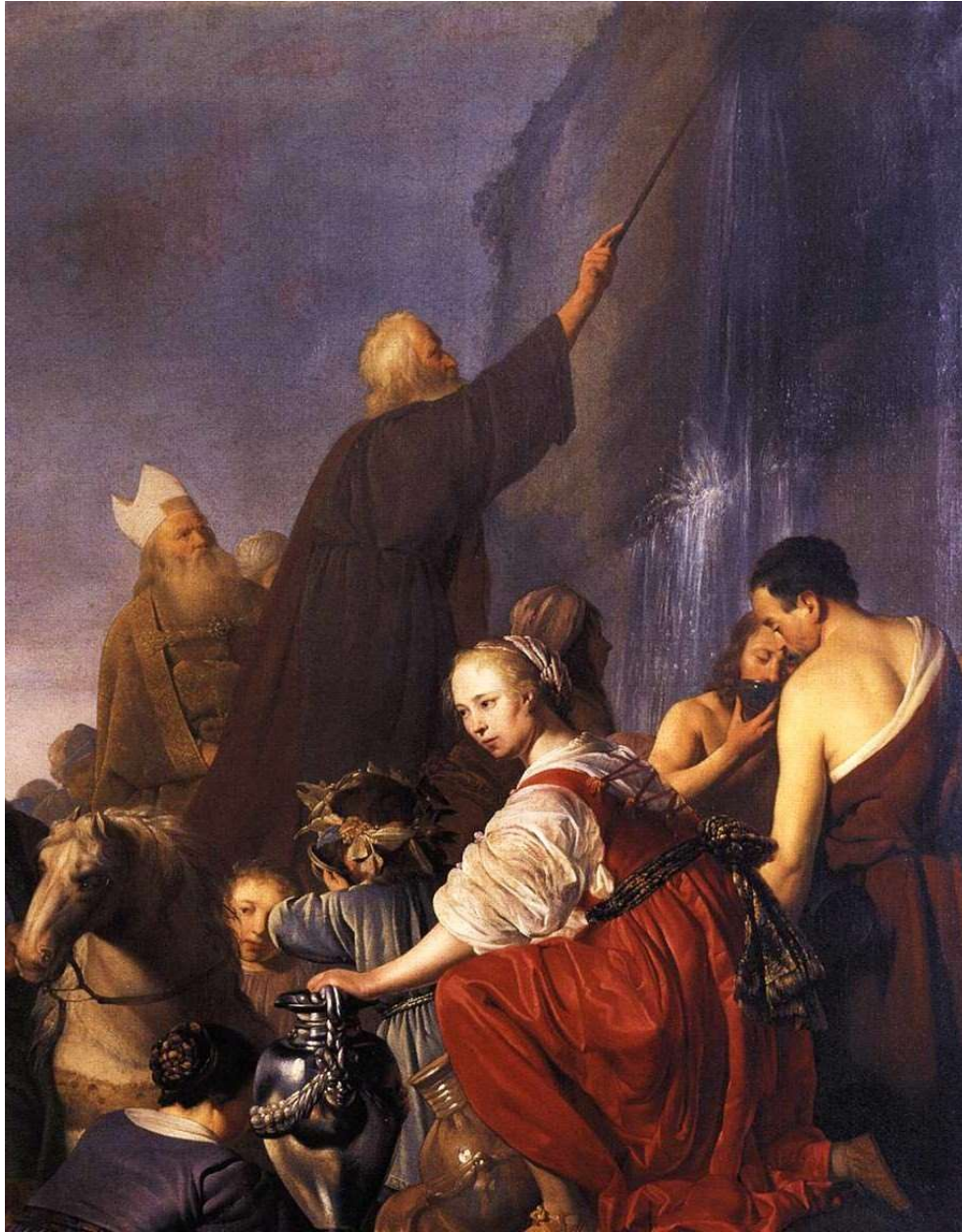
The Lord bless and keep you  
in your going out  
and your coming in  
from this time on  
and forevermore.

**Amen!**

**POSTLUDE**

*Jesus Shall Reign*

Callahan



*Moses Striking the Rock, Pieter de Grebber (1630)*

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**Choir Director:** Deb Melse

**Choir Members:** Mary Robinson, Peter Robinson, Camille Subject, Patty Yanz, Torrie Yanz

**Choral Accompanist:** Hrant Bagrazyan

**Sound:** Marty Subject

**Pastor:** Rev. Bill Pinches

**Ministers:** All Church Members