

October 4, 2020 +++ 18th Sunday after Pentecost
First Presbyterian Church +++ Mason, Michigan

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear
than we to pray,
and to give more
than we either desire or deserve.
Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things
of which our conscience is afraid,
and giving us those good things
for which we are not worthy to ask,
except through the merits and mediation
of Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

Prelude

Opening Voluntaries

Zundel

Foundation

Held

Bread of Life

Hurd / Trapp

CALL TO WORSHIP

Romans 1:7; Exodus 20.2-3; Hebrews 1:3

Grace to you and peace
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!
The Lord has delivered us from slavery;
there is no other god but the Lord.
In Jesus Christ we know the glory of God;
he sustains all things by his mighty word.
Let us worship God!

HYMN #353

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

DIX

For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree, and flower,

sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the Church that evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
her pure sacrifice of love,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thyself, best gift divine,
to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

CALL TO CONFESSION

1 John 1:8-9

If we say we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.
But when we confess our sins,
God who is faithful and just
will forgive us our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty and merciful God,
we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much
the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things
which we ought to have done;
and we have done those things
which we ought not to have done.**

**O Lord, have mercy upon us.
Forgive those who confess their faults.**

**Restore those who are penitent,
according to your promises declared to the world
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O merciful God, for his sake,
that we may live a holy, just, and humble life
to the glory of your holy name.**

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 6:8, 11

Hear the good news!

If we have died with Christ,
we believe that we will also live with him.
Therefore, consider yourselves dead to sin
and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

In the name of Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

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).*

HYMN #768

"I Come with Joy"

DOVE OF PEACE

I come with joy to meet my Lord,
forgiven, loved, and free,
in awe and wonder to recall
his life laid down for me,

his life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord,
his presence, always near,
is in such friendship better known;
we see and praise him here,
we see and praise him here.

Together met, together bound,
we'll go our different ways,
and as his people in the world,
we'll live and speak his praise,
we'll live and speak his praise.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Luke 13:29; 24:30-31

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!
People will come from north and south
and from east and west
to sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke,
when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples,
he took the bread,
blessed and broke it,
and gave it to them.
Then their eyes were opened,
and they recognized him.

This is the Lord's Table.
Our Savior invites those who trust him
to share the feast that he has prepared.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, creator of the universe,
with joy we praise you and give you thanks.
You brought light from darkness
and drew land from the sea.
You made us in your image
to live with one another in love.
You promised yourself in covenant with us,
you told us your purpose in your law,
and called for justice through the prophets.
Through long generations you have been faithful to your people.

Therefore we join our voices with all those who sing your praise:

Isaiah 6:3; Psalm 118:25-26

**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!**

We praise you, most holy God,
for the gift of your Son, Jesus.
He told your story, healed the sick, and welcomed the stranger.
Obeying you, he took up his cross and died that we might live.
Rising from the dead, he overcame death,
the firstborn of the new creation.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts,
we break bread and share one cup,
giving thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ
and offering ourselves to live for him
in joy and grateful praise.

Great is the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them the body and blood of Christ
that we may be his body for the world.
By your Spirit make us one with him and one another;
send us out to live for others, as Christ lived for us;
and keep us faithful until we feast with him in glory.
All thanks and praise to you, O triune God,
now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray for God's rule on earth
as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest,
took bread, and after giving thanks to God,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
"Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

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.
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord,
until he comes.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

COMMUNION

We will all partake of the bread and the cup together.

The body of Christ,
given for you.

Amen.

The blood of Christ,
given for you.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**God of abundance,
with this bread of life and cup of salvation
you have united us with Christ,
making us one with all your people.**

**Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue forever in the risen life
of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Romans 6:13

Let us present ourselves to God
as those who have been delivered from death to life.

Let us return to God the offerings of our life
and the gifts of the earth.

OFFERTORY

Präludium

Buxtehude

RESPONSE #809

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

OLD HUNDRETH

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

Loving God, fountain of every blessing,
open us to your life-giving word,
and fill us with your Holy Spirit
so that living water may flow through our hearts—

a spring of hope for a thirsty world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;
you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above,
or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit
anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your
God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or
female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the
mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses,
"You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to
the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon
you so that you do not sin."

PSALM

Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.

The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.
Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the

law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ,* the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

* or “through the faith of Christ”

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 21:33-46

“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

RESPONSE

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

“He Is Worthy”

Peterson / Shive / Duren

Do you feel the world is broken? We do.

Do you feel the shadows deepen? We do.

But do you know that all the dark won't stop the Light from getting through? We do.

Do you wish that you could see it all made new? We do.

Is all creation groaning? It is.

Is a new creation coming? It is.

Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? It is.

Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? It is.

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?

Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?

The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave!

He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.

Is He worthy?

Is He worthy of all blessing and honor and glory?

Is He worthy of this? He is.

Does the Father truly love us? He does.

Does the Spirit move among us? He does.

And does Jesus, our Messiah, hold forever those He loves? He does.

Does our God intend to dwell again with us? He does.

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?

Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?

The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave!

He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.

From ev'ry people and tribe, ev'ry nation and tongue,

He has made us a kingdom and priests to God to reign with the Son.

Is He worthy?

Is He worthy of all blessing and honor and glory?

Is He worthy? Is He worthy?

Is He worthy of this? He is!

Is He worthy? Is He worthy? He is!

Is He worthy? Is He worthy? He is!

SERMON

“The Fear of the Lord”

Rev. Bill Pinches

HYMN #21

“How Great Thou Art”

O STORE GUD

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, “My God, how great thou art.”

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!

BLESSING

John 16:12-15

May the God of glory,
the Lord of life,
and the Spirit of truth
be with you all.

Amen!

POSTLUDE

Duke Street

Held



Moses with the Ten Commandments, Philippe de Champaigne (1648)

CREDITS

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Organist: Darlene Ross

Choir Director: Deb Melse

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

Choral Accompanist: Hrant Bagrazyan

Sound: Marty Subject

Liturgist: Katharine Wise

Pastor: Rev. Bill Pinches

Ministers: All Church Members