

October 11, 2020 +++ 19th Sunday after Pentecost
First Presbyterian Church +++ Mason, Michigan

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful God,
in Jesus Christ you do not call the righteous,
but sinners to repentance.
Draw us away from the easy road
that leads to destruction,
and guide us into paths
that lead to life abundant,
that in seeking your truth, and obeying your will,
we may know the joy of being a disciple
of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Prelude

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

de Jong

Élévation

Franck

St. George's Windsor

Oliver

CALL TO WORSHIP

Romans 1:7; 2 Timothy 2:8; Isaiah 25:6-7

Grace to you and peace
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!
Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead.
This is the good news we proclaim.
The Lord will make a feast for all people
and destroy the power of death forever.
Let us worship God!

HYMN #381

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR

Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.
All is safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, does provide for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield,
wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrows grown.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear,
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his harvest home,
from his field shall in that day all offenses purge away,

give his angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to your final harvest home,
gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified, in your presence to abide.
Come, with all your angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Hebrews 4:14-16

Remember that our Lord Jesus
can sympathize with us in our weakness,
since in every respect he was tempted as we are,
yet without sin.

Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace,
that we may receive mercy
and find grace to help in time of need.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O Lord our God,
you call us to proclaim the gospel,
but we remain silent in the presence of evil.
You call us to be reconciled to you and one another,
but we are content to live in separation.
You call us to seek the good of all,
but we fail to resist the powers of oppression.
You call us to fight pretensions and injustice,
but we sit idly by,
endangering the lives of people far and near.**

**Forgive us, O Lord.
Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit,
and give us the courage and strength
to be reconciled to others;
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.**

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Philippians 3:9

Hear the good news!

Our righteousness is found in Christ alone,

a gift of God by faith.

Beloved people of God, believe the good news:
through the grace of Jesus Christ
we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN #542

“Near to the Heart of God”

MCAFEE

There is a place of quiet rest near the heart of God,
a place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.
O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,
hold us who wait before thee near to the heart of God.

There is a place of comfort sweet near to the heart of God,
a place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God.
O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,
hold us who wait before thee near to the heart of God.

There is a place of full release near to the heart of God,
a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God.
O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,
hold us who wait before thee near to the heart of God.

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

And now, with the confidence of the children of God,
let us pray.

**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

Romans 12:1

Present yourselves as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to God.

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

OFFERTORY

In Memoriam for the Victims of Covid-19

Stallsmith

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

God of abundant life,
your grace is our daily bread.
Nourish us by your Word
and fill us with your Spirit
so that we may grow in faith and love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD.” They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

PSALM

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Praise the LORD!

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Who can utter the mighty doings of the LORD,
or declare all his praise?

Happy are those who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times.

Remember me, O LORD, when you show favor to your people;
help me when you deliver them;
that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,
that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,
that I may glory in your heritage.

Both we and our ancestors have sinned;
we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly.

They made a calf at Horeb
and worshiped a cast image.
They exchanged the glory of God
for the image of an ox that eats grass.
They forgot God, their Savior,
who had done great things in Egypt,
wondrous works in the land of Ham,
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.*
Therefore he said he would destroy them—
had not Moses, his chosen one,
stood in the breach before him,
to turn away his wrath from destroying them.

* or “Sea of Reeds”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

RESPONSE

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Rebellion!"

Rev. Bill Pinches

HYMN #60

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

FAITHFULNESS

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

BLESSING

Ephesians 4:4-6

The blessing of the one God—
Spirit, Son, and Father—
be with you now and always.
Amen!

POSTLUDE

Toccata

Pachelbel



Adoration of the Golden Calf, François Perrier (1642)

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: Ginnie Gibson

Pastor: Rev. Bill Pinches

Ministers: All Church Members