

September 24, 2023  
17th Sunday after Pentecost

Children and Youth are dismissed to Sunday School

**PRELUDE** "Piano Sonata No. 8, mov. III" Beethoven

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TWO-CENTS-A-MEAL HUNGER OFFERING**

**CHORAL INTROIT** "Marvelous Things" anonymous

**OPENING SENTENCES**

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good. Ps. 118:1

**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

The Lord raises the poor from the dust and lifts up the needy from the ashes. Ps. 113:7

**The last are first in the realm of God;**

**the least are welcomed in Jesus' name.** Mark 9:35-37

Let us worship God!

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**+HYMN: GTG #487** "These Treasured Children" PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**CALL TO CONFESSION** 1 Tim. 1:14-15

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Almighty God,  
you love us, but we have not loved you.  
You call, but we have not listened.  
We walk away from neighbors in need,  
wrapped in our own concerns.  
We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.

God of grace,  
help us to admit our sin,  
so that as you come to us in mercy,  
we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ our redeemer.

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

... By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**HYMN: GTG #702** "Christ Be Beside Me" BUNESSAN

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

... God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

+ Those who are able may stand. 1

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

Acts 20:35

**OFFERTORY** "Courante in c" Bach

**+RESPONSE: GTG #606** OLD HUNDREDTH

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from *The Heidelberg Catechism*

(Germany, 1563)

44. Why does the creed add, "He descended to hell"?

**To assure me during attacks of deepest dread and temptation that Christ my Lord, by suffering unspeakable anguish, pain, and terror of soul, on the cross but also earlier, has delivered me from hellish anguish and torment.**

45. How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

**First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he obtained for us by his death. Second, by his power we too are already raised to a new life. Third, Christ's resurrection is a sure pledge to us of our blessed resurrection.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Exodus 16:2-15 O.T. page 48

**PSALM** Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Give thanks to the LORD and call upon God's name;  
make known the deeds of the LORD among the peoples.

**Sing to the LORD, sing praises,  
and speak of all God's marvelous works.**

Glory in God's holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

**Search for the strength of the LORD;  
continually seek God's face.**

Remember the marvels God has done,  
the wonders and the judgments of God's mouth,

**O offspring of Abraham, God's servant,  
O children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.**

You led out your people with silver and gold;  
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.

**Egypt was glad to see them go,  
because they were afraid of them.**

You spread out a cloud for a covering  
and a fire to give light by night.

**They asked, and you brought quail,  
and satisfied them with bread from heaven.**

You opened the rock, and water flowed,  
so the river ran in the dry places.

**For you remembered your holy word  
and Abraham your servant.**

So you led forth your people with gladness,  
your chosen with shouts of joy.

GTG = *Glory to God* (purple)

2

**You gave your people the lands of the nations,  
and they took the fruit of others' toil,  
that they might keep your statutes  
and observe your teachings. Hallelujah!**

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** Philippians 1:21-30 N.T. page 152

**GOSPEL LESSON** Matthew 20:1-16 N.T. page 17

**ANTHEM** "May Jesus Christ Be Praised!" Larson

**RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE**

These words are trustworthy and true.

**Thanks be to God.** Rev. 21:5

**SERMON**

Rev. Bill Pinches

**+HYMN: GTG #81** "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" AUSTRIAN HYMN

**+BLESSING**

2 Pet. 1:2

May grace and peace be yours in abundance  
in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.  
**Amen!**

**+CHARGE**

1 Cor. 16:13-14

Be watchful,  
stand firm in your faith,  
be courageous and strong.  
Let all that you do be done in love.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**+CHORAL BENEDICTION** "Our God Is an Awesome God" AWESOME GOD

**POSTLUDE** "Nocturne in c-sharp minor" Chopin

**You are invited to join us  
for fellowship and refreshments  
after worship in the Memorial Room.  
It is not necessary to remain seated during the postlude.**

**SERVING US TODAY**

**Liturgist:** Lucinda Davenport

**Greeters:** Susan Chien and Nancy Sue MacDonald

**Sound:** Marty Subject

**Livestream:** Tami Chapman

**Security:** Tim Hammond

**Today's flowers are given by  
the Oesterle Family  
in memory of  
Lyle & June Oesterle**

TWC = *The Worshiping Church* (red) 3

## CHURCH HISTORY IN MINIATURE

### #53. *Romans*:

Paul returns to Greece and spends the winter in Corinth. He writes his magnificent letter to the church in Rome ("Romans") from there.

(Acts 20:1-3) (c. AD 56-57)

## THE STUDY CATECHISM

### Question 95. What is the second commandment?

"You shall not make for yourself an idol" (Ex. 20:4; Deut. 5:8).

### Question 96. What do you learn from this commandment?

First, when I treat anything other than God as though it were God, I practice idolatry. Second, when I assume that my own interests are more important than anything else, I make them into idols, and in effect make an idol of myself.

## CREDITS

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## Mason First Presbyterian Church

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Office hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00-11:30am

### MINISTERS

All Members

### STAFF

**Pastor:** Rev. Bill Pinches

**Parish Associate:** Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus

**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Charlie Herrick

**Spiritual Growth Director:** Lori Filka

**Office Manager:** Sheren Wright

**Sanctuary Choir Director / Bell Choir Director:** Deb Melse

**Choral Music Accompanist / Organist:** Feng Kang

**Office Assistant:** Nancy Sue MacDonald

**Sexton:** Eric VanDyke

**Adult Spiritual Growth Coordinator:** Michelle Mackey

**Child Care:** Jill Castle, Aimee Cruickshank, Isaiah Hawkins,

Hannah Koutz, Sam Pinches, Lucy Simons

### ELDERS

**Class of 2023:** Bruce Archer (clerk), Tim Hammond, Mary Ozee, Steve Sowles.

**Class of 2024:** Jerry Ambrose, Lucinda Davenport, Loren Harkness, Tonya Seely.

**Class of 2025:** Doreen Chapman, Anita Cote, Mary Garland Jackson, Monte Shuck.

### DEACONS

**Class of 2023:** Lisa Castle, Jay Harkness, Vern Schrock.

**Class of 2024:** Donna Hujsak, Issie Nielsen, Camille Subject.

**Class of 2025:** Marge Clarke, Julie Dart, Timothy Pinches, Tom Seely.

### DAILY PRAYER

*Book of Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2018)

### EVENTS THIS WEEK

<b>Today</b>	Adult Sunday School ( <i>The Chosen</i> )	11:15 am
<b>Wednesday</b>	Lunch Packing for Advent House	10:30 am
	Prayer Fellowship	12:00 pm
	Wonderful Wednesday (children/youth)	4:00 pm
	Wednesday Night Dinner	6:00 pm
	Bell Choir rehearsal	6:30 pm
	Choir rehearsal	7:10 pm
<b>Friday</b>	Church Office closed / Pastor's Sabbath	

### BIRTHDAYS

Shirley Kline	Sept. 25
Colin Pinches	Sept. 27
Rebecca Cornish	Sept. 28

# Mason First Presbyterian Church

September 24, 2023  
17th Sunday after Pentecost



*The Gathering of the Manna*  
by an unknown Dutch painter, c. 1460-1470

*The fruit of the Spirit  
is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity,  
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.  
(Galatians 5:22-23)*