

September 15, 2024  
17th Sunday after Pentecost

**PRELUDE** "Sonata No. 31 in A<sup>b</sup> Major, 2<sup>nd</sup> Movement" Haydn

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHORAL INTROIT** "To God Be the Glory" TO GOD BE THE GLORY

**OPENING SENTENCES**

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; Ps. 116:5, 9  
our God is full of compassion.

Let us walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
Let us worship God!

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

+**HYMN: GTG #625** HOW GREAT THOU ART  
"O Lord My God (How Great Thou Art)"

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God,  
in the face of sin, our gravest enemy,  
we call to you for help.  
You know our fault before we speak.  
Forgive us for what we have done in opposition to your will.  
Forgive us for those things we have not undertaken  
and for which we know our wrong.  
We have not loved you and our neighbors as we ought.  
We have denied our dependence on you.  
Lead us away from this grief and sorrow.  
Save us so that we may fulfill our vows to you  
and attend to the needs of your people. Amen.

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

... Go with God in joy as you take up your cross, in Jesus' name.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.

**HYMN: GTG #693** "Though I May Speak (The Gift of Love)" GIFT OF LOVE

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

... God of love, hear our prayer.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN** Debbie Shellenbarger

Children and youth are dismissed to Sunday School

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** "As The Deer" Nystrom

+**RESPONSE: GTG #606** OLD HUNDREDTH  
"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

+**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

+**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Isaiah 50:4-9a O.T. page 518  
The servant submits to suffering

**PSALM** Psalm 116:1-9  
I will walk in God's presence

I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,  
for the LORD has given ear to me  
whenever I called.  
The cords of death entangled me;  
the anguish of the grave came upon me;  
I came to grief and sorrow.  
Then I called upon the name of the LORD:  
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

Gracious is the LORD and righteous;  
our God is full of compassion.  
The LORD watches over the innocent;  
I was brought low, and God saved me.  
Turn again to your rest, O my soul,  
for the LORD has dealt well with you.

For you have rescued my life from death,  
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.  
I will walk in the presence of the LORD  
in the land of the living.

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** James 3:1-12 N.T. page 181  
Dangers of the unbridled tongue

**GOSPEL LESSON** Mark 8:27-38 N.T. page 34  
Peter's confession of faith

**RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE** John 6:68-69  
The words of eternal life,  
by which we have come to believe.  
Thanks be to God.

**ANTHEM** "Take Up Your Cross, The Savior Said" arr. Helvey

**SERMON** "Take Up Your Cross" Rev. Bill Pinches

+**HYMN: GTG #265** "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun" DUKE STREET

+**CHARGE**  
... Set your mind on what Christ Jesus has done.  
Amen.

+ **BLESSING**  
... for the sake of the goodness that is willed for you, in Jesus' name.  
Alleluia!

+**CHORAL BENEDICTION** "May the Lord Go With You" Williams / Page

**POSTLUDE** "Capriccio Septimi Toni, RW 69" Peyer

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**

Guest Musician: Laura Johnson  
Liturgist: Debbie Shellenbarger  
Greeters: Debi and Mike Buchman  
Next Week's Greeters: Sandy Diehl and Barbara Georgescu  
Sound: Marty Subject  
Livestream: Tami Chapman  
Security: Dan Baker

Today's flowers are given by  
Rebecca Cornish  
in memory of  
Eleanor and Leslie Palmer

## CHURCH HISTORY IN MINIATURE

### **#1. Resurrection:**

Jesus of Nazareth was crucified outside the walls of Jerusalem on Friday, April 7, AD 30 (or possibly Friday, April 3, AD 33). Two mornings later, God raised him from the dead!

## THE STUDY CATECHISM

### **Question 25. Did God need the world in order to be God?**

No. God would still be God, eternally perfect and inexhaustibly rich, even if no creatures had ever been made. Yet without God, all created beings would simply fail to exist. Creatures can neither come into existence, nor continue, nor find fulfillment apart from God. God, however, is self-existent and self-sufficient.

## CREDITS

**Opening Sentences, Prayer of the Day, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, Declaration of Forgiveness, Prayers of Intercession, Invitation to Offering, Prayer of Dedication, Prayer for Illumination, Blessing, and Charge:** Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2014.

**Responsive Psalms, Canticles, and Other Prayers:** *Book of Common Worship*, Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), © 2018 Westminster John Knox Press. Used with permission.

**Other Scripture Readings:** New Revised Standard Version Bible—Updated Edition, copyright © 2021 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

**Affirmation of Faith:** From *The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*, Part I: *Book of Confessions*, published by the Office of the General Assembly, © 2016.

**The Study Catechism (Full Version):** Approved by the 210th General Assembly (1998) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

**Music:** "Sonata No. 31 in Ab Major, 2nd Movement." By Franz Joseph Haydn. Public domain. "To God Be the Glory." Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1875, alt. Music: William H. Doane, 1875. Public domain. "O Lord My God (How Great Thou Art)." Text: Stuart K. Hine, 1953. Music: Swedish folk melody; adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1949. Text and Music © 1949 and 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust (U.S.A. print rights admin. Hope Publishing Company. All other U.S.A. rights admin. EMICMGPublishing.com). Used with permission, One License #A-717602. "Though I May Speak (The Gift of Love)." Text: Hal H. Hopson, 1972. Music: English folk melody; adapt. Hal H. Hopson, 1972. Text and Music © 1972 Hope Publishing Company. Used with permission, One License #A-717602. "As The Deer." By Martin Nystrom. Copyright © 1983 Restoration Music Ltd for UK, Rep. of Ireland and Continent of Europe. Used with permission, One License #A-717602. "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" (Doxology). Text: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709. Tune: *Genevan Psalter*, 1551. Public domain. "Take Up Your Cross, The Savior Said." Lyrics by Charles William Everest (1814-1877), alt. Music based on *BOURBON; Columbia Harmony*, 1825; credited to Freeman Lewis (1790-1859); arranged by Howard Helvey. Copyright © 2022 Beckenhors Press, Inc. Used with permission, One License #A-717602. "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun." Text: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt. Music: Attr. John Hatton, c. 1793. Public domain. "May The Lord Go With You." Words by J. Paul Williams. Music by Anna Laura Page. Copyright © 1993 Alfred Publishing Co., Inc. Used with permission, One License #A-717602. "Capriccio Septimi Toni, RW 69." By Johann Baptist Peyer. Public domain.

**Art:** Valley of Cuelgamuros, near Madrid, Spain. Source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:SPA-2014-San\\_Lorenzo\\_de\\_El\\_Escorial-Valley\\_of\\_the\\_Fallen\\_\(Valle\\_de\\_los\\_Ca%C3%ADdos\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:SPA-2014-San_Lorenzo_de_El_Escorial-Valley_of_the_Fallen_(Valle_de_los_Ca%C3%ADdos).jpg). Used with permission under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license.

## **Mason First Presbyterian Church**

131 E Maple St, Mason, MI 48854-1655  
(517) 676-9333  
office@masonpresbyterian.org  
www.masonpresbyterian.org

Temporary office hours: some weekday mornings, 9:00–11:00am

### MINISTERS

All Members

### STAFF

**Pastor:** Rev. Bill Pinches  
**Parish Associate:** Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus  
**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Charlie Herrick  
**Spiritual Growth Director:** Lori Filka  
**Sanctuary Choir Director / Bell Choir Director:** Deb Melse  
**Choral Worship Accompanist:** Le Ji  
**Financial Secretary:** Frances Miller  
**Office Assistant:** Nancy Sue MacDonald  
**Sexton:** Eric VanDyke

**Adult Spiritual Growth Coordinator:** Michelle Mackey  
**Child Care:** Jill Castle, Aimee Cruickshank, Isaiah Hawkins, Hannah Koutz, Jasmine Leffew, Violet Mackey, Sam Pinches, Lucy Simons, Keren Tayong

### ELDERS

**Class of 2024:** Jerry Ambrose, Lucinda Davenport, Loren Harkness, Tonya Seely.  
**Class of 2025:** Doreen Chapman, Mary Garland Jackson, Monte Shuck.  
**Class of 2026:** Bruce Archer (*Clerk of Session*), Ginnie Gibson, Jane Hamelink, Tim Hammond

### DEACONS

**Class of 2024:** Donna Hujsak (*Secretary*), Issie Nielsen, Camille Subject.  
**Class of 2025:** Marge Clarke, Julie Dart, Timothy Pinches, Tom Seely (*Moderator*).  
**Class of 2026:** Ron Dlouhy (*Treasurer*), Bill Leutscher, Sandy Leutscher, Nancy Sue MacDonald, Laurie McGonigal

### EVENTS THIS WEEK

<b>Today</b>	Adult Sunday School ( <i>The Chosen</i> )	11:30 am
<b>Wednesday</b>	Lunch Packing for Advent House	10:15 am
	Prayer Fellowship (in the Chapel)	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>Thursday</b>	Session	7:00 pm
<b>Friday</b>	Church Office closed / Pastor's Sabbath	
<b>Saturday</b>	Yarners	10:00 am

### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Marla St. George	Sept. 16
Jerry Richards	Sept. 18

# Mason First Presbyterian Church

## September 15, 2024 17th Sunday after Pentecost



Valley of Cuelgamuros  
near Madrid, Spain  
built from 1940 to 1959  
featuring the tallest cross in the world (approx. 500 ft.)

*A warm and caring Christ-centered community of faith,  
actively serving and nurturing one another and our neighbors,  
embracing diversity, and fostering spiritual growth*