

**February 16, 2025**  
**Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

**PRELUDE** "His Eye Is On the Sparrow" Gabriel, arr. Hayes

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING SENTENCES**

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord. *Jer. 17:7-8*  
**They shall be like a tree planted by water,  
sending out its roots by the stream.**  
Baptized and freed, grounded in love,  
**let us worship God.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

+ **HYMN: GTG #12** "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" ST. DENIO

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, your call to discipleship is demanding. You call us to reorder our lives by the kingdom you are bringing in Jesus Christ. Yet we still pass by the ones you especially notice: people who are poor and hungry; people who weep. We have not stood with those who are hated, bullied, and excluded. Comfortable with the way things are, we are too complacent, even complicit with injustice and prejudice. Forgive us, O God, and turn us back to your gospel. We pray this now, for our sake, and for the sake of your world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

... Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,  
we are forgiven and set free to live for God and neighbor.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**HYMN: GTG #816** WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT  
"If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee"

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

... Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,  
**whose trust is the Lord.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN** Debbie Shellenbarger

*Children and youth are dismissed to Sunday School*

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

+ Those who are able may stand. 1 GTG = *Glory to God* (purple hymnal)

**OFFERTORY** "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" Maker

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

+ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

+ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from *The Confession of Belhar*  
(South Africa, 1986)

**We believe**

**that God has entrusted the church with the message of  
reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ;**  
**that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light  
of the world, that the church is called "blessed" because it is  
a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and  
by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which  
righteousness dwells;**  
**that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the  
powers of sin and death, and therefore also of  
irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that  
God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to  
live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of  
life for society and the world;**  
**that the credibility of this message is seriously affected and its  
beneficial work obstructed when it is proclaimed in a land  
which professes to be Christian, but in which the enforced  
separation of people on a racial basis promotes and  
perpetuates alienation, hatred and enmity;**  
**that any teaching which attempts to legitimate such forced  
separation by appeal to the gospel, and is not prepared to  
venture on the road of obedience and reconciliation, but  
rather, out of prejudice, fear, selfishness and unbelief,  
denies in advance the reconciling power of the gospel, must  
be considered ideology and false doctrine.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Jeremiah 17:5-10 O.T. page 548  
*Those who trust the Lord are like trees*

**PSALM** Psalm 1  
*The way of the righteous*

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners,  
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;  
everything they do shall prosper.

**It is not so with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright  
when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.  
**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 N.T. page 135  
*Christ has been raised*

**GOSPEL LESSON** Luke 6:17-26 N.T. page 49  
*Blessings on the poor, woes on the rich*

**RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE** Ps. 112:1  
Happy are those who delight in God's word.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**CHORAL MUSIC** "Get All Excited" Gaither

**SERMON** "Blessed Are the Poor and Hungry" Rev. Bill Pinches

+ **HYMN: GTG #815** "Give to the Winds Thy Fears" FESTAL SONG

+ **CHARGE**

Hear the word of our Lord, Jesus Christ:  
When people hate you, exclude you, revile you, defame you,  
do not dismay,  
for that is also how they treated the prophets before you!  
**Amen.**

+ **BLESSING**

May the blessing of God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,  
nourish and sustain us, surprise and reorder us,  
and strengthen us in faith and hope for this life and the life to come.  
**Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE** "Steal Away" arr. Strohmman / Schaum

**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:** Suzanne Lang  
**Greeters:** Tom and Tonya Seely  
**Next Week's Greeters:** Greg and Suzanne Lang  
**Sound:** Tami Chapman  
**Livestream:** Tami Chapman  
**Security:** Isaac Reyes

**Today's flowers are given by Gladys Welker  
in memory of Gerald Welker**

**CHURCH HISTORY IN MINIATURE**

**#18: *The Road to Damascus:***

Saul the Pharisee’s persecution of Jesus’ disciples abruptly ends when he beholds the light of Christ and begins preaching the gospel.  
(Acts 9:1-22)

**THE STUDY CATECHISM**

**Question 44. What do you affirm when you say that he “descended into hell”?**

That our Lord took upon himself the full consequences of our sinfulness, even the agony of abandonment by God, in order that we might be spared.

**CREDITS**

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**Mason First Presbyterian Church**

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**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

**Office Manager:** Jessica Tessman

**Financial Secretary:** Jess Weber

**Choral Music Accompanist:** Le Ji

**Sexton:** Eric VanDyke

**Office Assistant:** Nancy Sue MacDonald

**Adult Spiritual Growth Coordinator:** Michelle Mackey

**Child Care:** Jill Castle, Hannah Koutz, Jasmine Leffew, Violet Mackey, Sam Pinches, Lucy Simons, Keren Tayong

**ELDERS**

**Class of 2025:** Doreen Chapman, Mary Garland Jackson, Greg Lang, Monte Shuck (*Recording Clerk*).

**Class of 2026:** Bruce Archer (*Clerk*), Ginnie Gibson, Jane Hamelink, Tim Hammond

**Class of 2027:** Travis Archer, Dan Baker, Evelyn Tayong, Steve Sowles

**DEACONS**

**Class of 2025:** Marge Clarke, Julie Dart, Tom Seely (*Moderator*).

**Class of 2026:** Ron Dlouhy (*Treasurer*), Bill Leutscher, Sandy Leutscher, Nancy Sue MacDonald (*Secretary*), Laurie McGonigal

**Class of 2027:** Donna Archer, Rick Cote, Debbie Johnson, Issie Nielsen

**EVENTS THIS WEEK**

<b>Today</b>	Adult Class ( <i>The False White Gospel</i> )	11:30 am
	Adult Sunday School (Brené Brown)	11:30 am
<b>Wednesday</b>	Lunch Packing for Advent House	10:15 am
	Prayer Fellowship ( <i>in the Chapel</i> )	12:00 pm
	Wonderful Wednesday	4:00—6:00 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	

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Feb. 19: Kelli Green

Feb. 21: Issie Nielsen

**Mason  
First Presbyterian Church**

**February 16, 2025  
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**



*Sermon on the Mount*  
by Fritz von Uhde, c. 1877

“You will know the truth and the truth will make you free.”  
(John 8:32)