

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla**  
**Worship Service on Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*September 5, 2021*

**Pre-Service Music:** *Fugue in C Major* - George Frideric Handel

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude:** *Praeludium in G Major* - Johann Kaspar Ferdinand Fischer

**Call to Worship**

The eyes of the blind shall be opened,

**and the ears of the deaf unstopped.**

The lame shall leap like a deer,

**and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.**

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,

**and streams in the desert.**

The burning sand shall become a pool,

**and the thirsty ground springs of water.**

**Prayer of the Day**

**Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health, and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn #399:** *God Welcomes All* sing three times (please stand)

**Call to Confession**

Tell everyone who is discouraged,

**Be strong and do not be afraid.**

**Our help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth.**

Let us confess our sins, to each other and our forgiving Lord.

### Prayer of Confession

**You love us with open arms, O God.  
Forgive us when we do not put your love into practice:  
when we do not challenge the injustice around us;  
when we are not generous with the gifts we have to share;  
when we are slow to compassion and quick to judgment;  
when we contribute to the brokenness of the world  
instead of helping to make it whole.  
Forgive us, O God, of the ways we fall short.  
Free us to try again, and let your love lead the way.  
[take time for personal reflection and confession]**

All of God's children say: **Amen!**

### Declaration of Forgiveness

The scripture tells us: Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which can never be shaken, and never be moved.

**By the grace of God we are forgiven.**

Happy are those who have God to help them and who depend on the Lord, our God.

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

### Passing the Peace of Christ

**Gloria #583:** *Glory to God repeat twice*

**Time for sharing of joys and concerns, and the prayer list.**  
**Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer (debts and debtors)**

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

**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**

**Hymn:** #806 *I'll Praise My Maker Psalm 146 v.1, 2, 3, 4* (remain seated)

### Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray: **Lord, James reminds us to submit to God and accept the word that he plants in our hearts. Open our hearts as we listen to the word today, that we may put it into practice in our lives. Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading:** 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14

**Epistle Lesson:** Ephesians 5:15-20

**Gospel Lesson:** Mark 7: 24-37

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:** *Warning Labels* Josiah Accola

**Affirmation of Faith** – excerpted from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (please stand)

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice freedom, and peace.**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**Sending Hymn#79:** *Light Dawns on a Weary World v. 1, 2.3* (remain standing)

**Benediction:** (remain standing)

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

**Postlude:** *Fugue in C Major* - Johann Pachelbel (please be seated)

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Lorie Francis, Mary Kwantes and Jeff Sandquist. Worship led by Pam Cottingham and sermon provided by Josiah Accola.*

*Portions of the service reprinted by permission of Presbyterian Press from Call to Worship®. Copyright 2020, and Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress Press, Copyright 2014.*