

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla**  
**Worship Service on Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost**

*October 31, 2021*

**Pre-Service Music:** *Wondrous Grace* - Mary Ann Fritz

**Welcome and Announcements**

GRACE for Christmas: GRACE has requested that we provide snack bags for teen boys. During the month of November, you can pick up a gift bag with a list of needed items. They will be on the table in back of the church. They should be returned by November 28. If you want to give money in lieu of filling a bag, please note "Christmas bags" on the check.

**Prelude:** *Walk Worthy* - Joseph M. Martin

**Call to Worship**

Which of the commandments is first of all?

**The Lord is our God. The Lord is one!**

And the second is this:

**love your neighbor as yourself.**

As we gather to worship God, let us remember:

**there is no other commandment greater than these.**

**Prayer of the Day**

**Almighty God, you have taught us in your Son that love fulfills the law. Inspire us to love you with all our heart, our soul, our mind, and our strength, and teach us how to love our neighbor as ourselves, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**Opening Hymn #65** *Guide Me, O Though Great Jehovah* (please stand)

**Call to Confession**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, clothed in majesty ever since the world began.

**Who loves us and frees us from our sins,  
who leads us with all the saints to everlasting life.**

Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, you call us to love you with all our heart,  
and with all our soul, and with all our mind.

**Forgive us when selfishness takes up too much of our heart,  
when worry seems to crowd wonder out of our soul,  
when fear causes us to close our minds to anything new.**

Holy God, you call us to bear with one another in love.

**Forgive us when we cannot love our neighbors.  
Forgive us when we cannot love ourselves.**

### **Declaration of Forgiveness**

Almighty God has had mercy on us, and God's only Son has been given to die for us,  
and for his sake God forgives us all our sin.

**Believing in Jesus' name, we have received power  
to become the children of God;  
We have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

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)**

*Worship leader will lead the prayers.* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**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**

## **Remembering Those Who Have Died**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation, who comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

O God, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come:

**We give you thanks for all your faithful people  
who have followed the light of your word throughout  
the centuries into our time and place.**

*A single bell toll will be played for each name read.*

As we remember these people,

**Strengthen us to follow Christ through this world until we are carried  
into the harvest of eternal life, where suffering and death will be no more.**

Hear our prayer in the name of the good and gracious shepherd,  
Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**Hymn:** #817 *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight* (remain seated)

## **Prayer for Illumination**

Holy Spirit, come and dwell in us. Place Jesus Christ in us so that he is the cornerstone of our lives. Let us hear your word anew this day.

**Amen**

**Epistle Lesson:** Hebrews 9:11-14

**Gospel Lesson:** Mark 12:28-34

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

**Sermon** Susan Murray

**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#730**     *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*     (remain standing)

**Benediction:** (remain standing)

The love of God who created you,  
the mercy of Jesus Christ who died for you,  
and the power of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you,  
keep you at one with all the faithful, living and departed,  
and remain with you now and forever. Amen.

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

**Postlude:** *How Majestic is Your Name* - Michael W. Smith, arr. Phillip Keveren (please be seated)

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Lorie Francis, Mary Kwantes and Jeff Sandquist. Worship led by Cheryl Koederitz and sermon provided by Susan Murray.*

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