

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla  
Worship Service for Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

*August 20, 2023*

**Pre-Service Music:** *O Praise the Name* - James Koreaas

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude:** *He Keeps Me Singing* - Cindy Berry

**Welcoming Song #386:** *Come, Worship God* vs. 1 and 3

**Call to Worship**

Thus says the Lord:

**Maintain justice, and do what is right,  
for soon my salvation will come.**

God will bring us to the holy mountain, a house of prayer for all people.

**God gathers all the outcasts together, and makes us joyful!**

**Prayer of the Day**

**God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn #436:** *God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us* (please stand)

**Call to Confession**

We call to God, saying, **“Have mercy on us!”**

We call to God, saying, **“Lord, help us!”**

We call to God even in the midst of our sin,

**knowing that God is gracious and just.**

**Prayer of Confession**

**God of all goodness, we do not want to face all that is in our own hearts. We want to focus on the good— on the love, the compassion, the care— and ignore the bad— the greed, the envy, the cruelty. But before you, God, we must face it. Forgive all the ways we have let evil take hold in our hearts. Cleanse us. Help us face our own demons, and empower us to live a**

**Christlike life.**

**Declaration of Forgiveness**

We have been disobedient to God, but we have received mercy.

**Let us live our lives as those transformed by the abundant mercy of God!**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

**Glory to God #583:** *(please stand)*

**Hymn of the Day #430:** *Remember Not, O God*

**Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

*Worship leader will lead the prayers.*

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

O God, your Spirit gathers the church. Shepherd those who are newly baptized and newly ordained in the proclamation of the gospel, breathe life into ecumenical and inter-religious endeavors, and support missionaries throughout the globe.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray:

**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 #386:** *Come, Worship God v. 4* (seated)

**Prayer for Illumination:**

**Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the Scriptures are read and the Word is proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let all other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today — the voice of truth and grace. Amen.**

**Scriptures for the Day**

**Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

**Epistle Lesson:** Romans 11:1-2a, 29 - 32

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 15: 10 - 28

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:** *What Did You Say?* Susan Murray

**Affirmation of Faith:** Prayer for Listening and Speaking – First Presbyterian, Rolla

**In all the relationships of our church life, community life, and personal life may we follow the teachings of Jesus. May we endeavor to speak the truth in love and be guided by scripture in our thoughts, decisions, and actions. May we respect and listen deeply to one another, keep confidences, and avoid gossip and triangulation. May we pray for and with one another, building each other up, realizing every soul is precious to God. Amen.**

**Dedication of Tithes and Offerings** (please stand)

**Offering #711:** *Lord of All Good* vs. 1, 3

**Prayer of Dedication:**

**God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Sending Hymn #39:** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* (standing)

**Benediction:** (remain standing)

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

**Postlude:** *Praise Him! Praise Him!* - Cindy Berry

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

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