

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

*August 27, 2023*

**Pre-Service Music:** *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* - Pepper Choplin

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude:** *We Gather Together* - Lloyd Larson

**Welcoming Song #403:** *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty* vs. 1 and 2

**Call to Worship**

We gather as the body of Christ.

**We are many individuals, but together we are one.**

Each of us has our own gifts, our own calling, our own role,

**but all of us proclaim Jesus Christ is the Messiah!**

**Prayer of the Day**

**O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn #353:** *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less* (please stand)

**Call to Confession**

We seek the will of God, but still find ourselves conformed to this world, instead of being transformed into God's image.

**Let us seek forgiveness for the ways we have turned away from justice and mercy.**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Almighty God, when faced with earthly powers that seem overwhelming, we crumble. We fear this world. We fear losing our status, our stability, our station, more than we fear you. Forgive our shortcomings and teach us to trust in you when we take a risk for what we know is right. Amen.**

**Declaration of Forgiveness**

If God was not on our side, we could not stand in the judgment.

**But God is with us, steadfast and faithful, as we seek to live in peace.**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to 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 #81:** *Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken*

**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.

God of Sarah and Abraham, inspire your church to pursue righteousness in its ministry. Equip us to share your compassion that unites us as one family of faith.

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 #403:** *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty v. 3* (seated)

**Prayer for Illumination:**

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

**Scriptures for the Day**

**Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 51:1 - 6

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 16:13-20

**Epistle Lesson:** Romans 12:1-8

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:**

*The Gifts of God*

Susan Murray

**Affirmation of Faith:** 1 Corinthians 15 & Revelation 22:13

**This is the Good News we have received, in which we stand and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, that he appeared to the women, to Cephas and then to the twelve. Then he appeared to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end; He is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

**Dedication of Tithes and Offerings**

(please stand)

**Offering #710:**

*We Lift Our Voices*

**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 #354:**

*Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*

(standing)

**Benediction:**

(remain standing)

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

**Postlude:** *Along the King's Highway* - Lani Smith

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Jeff Sandquist and Lorie Francis. Worship led by Javier Valentine-Sivico and sermon provided by Susan Murray.*

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