

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sept. 17, 2023

Pre-Service Music: *Allegro* - Anonymous

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *I Am His, and He Is Mine* - Rachel Sawyer

Introit #35: *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty vs. 1*

Call to Worship

We observe this day as the Lord's Day, giving thanks to God,
who gives justice to the oppressed, who forgives us and redeems us,
and crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.

Let us worship the One who is worthy of our praise!

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn #35: *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* (stand)

Call to Confession

We are not here to pass judgment on each other:

all of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

Therefore, let us go before God as we offer our confession.

Prayer of Confession

God our Judge, we admit we have double standards. We seek forgiveness for ourselves, but fail to forgive others. We seek relief for ourselves, but fail to seek relief for others. We seek leniency for ourselves, but fail to show that mercy to others. Forgive us, mighty God, and help us to forgive, showing others the same grace and mercy that you have generously shown to us.

Declaration of Pardon

People of God, hear and believe: God does not deal with us according to our sins, but according to God's own steadfast love for us.

**As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our sins from us.
Thanks be to God!**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Passing the Peace of Christ

Gloria #581: *Glory Be to the Father* *(please stand)*

Anthem: *Behold I Make All Things New* Allen Pote

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.

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood.

Merciful God. **Receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers our hearts, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ 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 #234: *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain vs. 1, 3, 4* (seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Scriptures for the Day

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 50:15 - 21

Epistle Lesson: Romans 14:1 – 12

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18:21 - 35

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Reconciliation of the World* Jonathan Kimball

Affirmation of Faith: Adapted from the French Confession of 1559 (please stand)

We believe and confess only one God, who can do all things, is all-wise, all-good, all-just, and all-merciful.

We believe that everything required for our salvation has been offered and communicated to us in Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God and God's eternal Son.

Jesus Christ clothed himself in our flesh: God and human in one person. We believe that we are illuminated in faith by the unfathomable grace of the Holy Spirit. God imparts this gracious gift. By faith we receive grace to live holy lives in awe and reverence for God, for we receive what the gospel promises when God gives us the Holy Spirit. Faith does not cool our desire for good and holy living, but rather engenders and excites it in us, leading naturally to good works. We believe that the sacraments are joined to the Word in order that the Word may be more fully confirmed.

Baptism is given to us as the pledge of our adoption, in which we are grafted into the body of Christ, and renewed in holiness of life by his Spirit. The holy Supper of our Lord is a testimony of our unity with Jesus Christ, who died only once and was raised for our sake. The body and blood of Jesus Christ are food and drink for the soul just as bread and wine are nourishment for the body.

As for the true Church we believe that it ought to be governed in accordance with the order established by our Lord Jesus Christ. In this way, pure doctrine can be maintained, the poor and afflicted can be helped in their need, assemblies can be gathered in the name of God, and both great and small can be edified.

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings (stand)

Offering #709: *God, We Honor You* sung in canon

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 #753: *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* (stand)

Benediction:

(remain standing)

Make us a channel of your peace, O Lord.

**Empower us to share the good news with
all that we meet. That all may learn and know
of your forgiveness, reconciliation, and joy.**

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

Postlude: *I Will Sing of My Redeemer* - Cindy Berry

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Chancel Choir and Lorie Francis.
Worship led by Cheryl Koederitz and sermon provided by Jonathan Kimball.*

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