

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla**  
**Worship Service for 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*Nov. 19, 2023*

**Pre-Service Music:** *I Love to Tell the Story* - William G. Fischer, arr. by Matt Schinske

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude:** *Beautiful Savior* - C.E. Walz

**Introit #788:** *To You, O Lord, We Lift Our Eyes* Chancel Choir

**Responsive Call to Worship and Prayer of the Day**

To you, O God of the heavens, we lift our eyes.

**Have mercy on us!**

God has been our dwelling place from generation to generation.

**Hear us when we call!**

From everlasting to everlasting, God is with us.

**We will magnify your holy name!**

**Prayer of the Day**

**Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

**Opening Hymn #687:** *O God Our Help in Ages Past* v.1, 2, 3, 4 (stand)

**Call to Confession**

As children of God, we come to God in our joys, in our sorrows, in our fears, and in our guilt.

**Knowing that God loves us and embraces us, let us bring our confessions to God.**

**Prayer of Confession**

**God of abundance, you have given us so many gifts. You bless us with talents, resources, skills, and knowledge, and yet we hide them under a bushel. We hoard these gifts, instead of following you and sharing with those in need. We have been poor stewards of all you have given. Forgive us, and help us grow what we are given, that it might be returned in service to you.**



## **Scriptures for the Day**

**Old Testament Reading:** Zephaniah 1:7, 12 – 18

**Epistle Lesson:** 1 Thessalonians 5:1 - 11

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 25:14 - 30

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:**

*Talents*

Susan Murray

**Affirmation of Faith:** 1 Tim. 3:16, 2 Tim. 2:11-13

(please stand)

**Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of our religion:  
Christ Jesus was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit,  
seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed in throughout  
the world, taken up in glory.**

**The saying is sure: If we have died with Christ, we will also live with him;  
if we endure, we will also reign with him;  
if we deny him, he will also deny us;  
if we are faithless, he remains faithful—  
for he cannot deny himself.**

**Dedication of Tithes and Offerings**

(stand)

**Offering #710:**

*We Lift Our Voices*

**Prayer of Dedication:**

**Blessed are you, Maker of all things. As you have entrusted us with all  
that you have created, now gather our gifts that they may be used to  
your glory in this place. Help us to share your gifts with all those who  
hunger and thirst, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Sending Hymn #384:**

*Soon and Very Soon*

(stand)

**Charge and Benediction:**

Soon and very soon...we are going to see the King!  
Share this good news through your words and deeds!

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

**Postlude:** *Living Hope* - Phil Wickham and Brian Johnson, arr. James Koerts

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Chancel Choir and Lorie Francis.  
Worship led by Javier Valentín-Sívico and sermon provided by Susan Murray.  
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