

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla

Worship Service for Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 15, 2024

Pre-Service Music: *Canzonetta* – Lani Smith

Welcome and Announcements:

Prelude: *Little Piece for Organ* – John S. Dixon

Introit G2G#621: *I Will Call Upon the Lord* Chancel Choir

Call to Worship:

We have been gathered in this place for this time,
that we might hear the good news we can't help but share.

On this day and each one to come,
may the words of our mouths, the meditations of our hearts, and the actions of our lives proclaim our faith.

Prayer of the Day:

**Holy God, your wisdom cries out in the streets
and your grace whispers in the wind.
You speak to us in many ways.
Help us to hear you in the carbonated laughter of a child
and in weary sighs too deep for words.
As you speak to us, let us speak of you,
sharing what we believe with our words
and our whole lives. Amen.**

Hymn #174: *Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom* (please stand)

Call to Confession:

We try to live our lives in a manner worthy of Christ.

We try to stand firm in God's spirit, but our human self-interest gets the better of us.

In humility and faith, let us confess.

Prayer of Confession

God of generosity, we find ourselves bitter when faced with your abundant grace. We believe ourselves more deserving than others. We nurse our anger and resentment at those you forgive, instead of rejoicing in the abundant love you show. Forgive us when we wish your grace was scarce. Forgive the double standards we hold. Help us to know that we are all in need of your grace and help us rejoice as we all gratefully receive your mercy.

Declaration of Pardon

The grace of God is boundless, poured out freely for all of us.

**We will receive this gift of forgiveness,
and trust God to transform our lives!**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

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

Anthem: *I Thank My God* J. Aaron McDermid Chancel Choir

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.

Listen for the prompt "Hear us O God" and respond with "Your mercy is great."

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

(brief silence)

We pray for the church throughout the world. Form us into communities of forgiveness and grace. Help us to notice where you are calling us into new relationships and give us courage to embrace the uncomfortable and unfamiliar.

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

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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 #455: *Listen to the Word That God Has Spoken* (seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 50:4 – 9a

Epistle Lesson: James 3:1-12.

Gospel Lesson: Mark 8:27 – 38.

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon:

Carrying our Crosses

Mary Kwantes

Affirmation of Faith: 1 Tim. 3:16 (Revised Standard Version) (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.**

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

(please be seated)

Offertory Hymn #710: *We Are an Offering*

Prayer of Dedication:

**Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your
creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us serve
one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sending Hymn #837: *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine.*

(stand)

Benediction:

(remain standing)

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

Postlude: *Fanfare – David Paxton*

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