

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla

Worship Service for Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 2024

Pre-Service Music: *O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus* – Anna Laura Page

Welcome and Announcements:

Prelude: *Peaceful* – Mark Hayes

Introit G2G#812: *O Save Me, God, and Hear My Cry* Chancel Choir

Call to Worship:

In this time set apart for worship, the Holy Spirit invites us:

Draw near to God,

who is steady and sure.

Draw near to God,

who welcomes those often overlooked.

Draw near to God,

who draws us together, threads woven in a shared fabric of faith.

Let us worship the Lord!

Prayer of the Day:

Faithful God, you do not promise that following you will be easy, but you teach us that your way is one of peace, gentleness, and mercy, of welcome for all.

Guide us by your wisdom and inspire us to embrace this way of living, so that we might draw near to you. Amen.

Hymn #645: *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above.* (stand)

Call to Confession:

Prayer of Confession:

Holy God, we confess to you: We are not of the same mind. We do not share the same love. We act in selfish ambition and do not regard others as better than ourselves. We have not looked to the interests of others instead of ourselves. We do not embrace the humility of Jesus Christ. Forgive us. Continue to be at work in us, that we might serve each other as you served us, and reflect your glory in this world. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

When we lift up our souls to God, God does not put us to shame.

God forgives us, leads us in the truth, and leads us in what is right.

Thanks be to God!

Amen.

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: *Lauda Anima* Benjamin Harlan 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)

Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation.

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 #435: *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* (seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

God's word is a lamp unto our feet and a light for our path. May we find God in these scriptures. May the holy story of God's love for us open our eyes to also see God in the world around us. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day

Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 11:18 – 20

Epistle Lesson: James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8

Gospel Lesson: Mark 9:30 – 37

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon:

A Vision of Who We Could Be

Jonathan Kimball

Affirmation of Faith: Nicene Creed (please stand)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

(please be seated)

Offertory Hymn #709: *God We Honor You*

Prayer of Dedication:

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Accept these tithes and offerings brought to further the work of the church in this place. In thy name we pray. Amen

Sending Hymn #757: *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*
(stand)

Benediction: (remain standing)

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

Postlude: *Rejoice! He is Lord of All* – Benjamin David Knoedler

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