

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

18th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 a.m. September 26, 2021

SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on the church in this place. Here may the faithful find salvation, and the careless be awakened. Here may the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged. Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful find comfort. Here may the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed. Here may the aged find consolation, and the young be inspired; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: If the LORD had not been on our side, let Israel now say;

People: if the LORD had not been on our side, when enemies rose up against us,

Leader: then would they have swallowed us up alive in their fierce anger toward us;

People: then would the waters have overwhelmed us and the torrent gone over us;

All: then would the raging waters have gone right over us.

Leader: Blessed be the LORD who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

People: We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

All: Our help is in the name of the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.

OPENING PRAYER

*OPENING HYMN “When Morning Guild’s the Skies” (see insert)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your church and your ways. We have followed the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have left

undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED

SCRIPTURE READING James 5:13-20

HYMN “A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar” (see insert)

SCRIPTURE READING Esther 7:1-10; 9:20-22

SERMON The Rev. Natasha Sudderth-Davis

SPECIAL MUSIC “Battle Belongs”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every

knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: that Jesus Christ is Lord!

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*HYMN "Our God" (see insert)

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

***Those who are able, please stand.**

We warmly greet all who have come to worship God. Your presence will enhance our worship experience and our fellowship together. Sincere thanks to each of you for your participation in the service. Glory be to God!

Leading Worship: The Rev. Natasha Sudderth-Davis, Pastor; Leah Metzger, Accompanist & Director; Rev. Natasha Sudderth-Davis, Elder of the Month.

Announcements

Session meeting Monday Sep. 27th 7 pm

Monday Morning Yoga 10 am

Art and Fellowship Wednesdays 10am in Fellowship Hall

Prayer Meeting Thursdays 9:30 am in the church office

Ushers for October 3rd: Bobby Harper, Jeanne Hilgendorf, Warren Hilgendorf, Martha Davis, Mike Perrine, and Jim Culbreath.

Worship Committee requests that if you have a purple hymnal at home, please return it to the narthex. Members will receive dedication bookplates to remember a loved one or document your experience during the pandemic. Please also consider a donation for these hymnals. Donations (identified as "hymnal donation") can be placed in the offering box in the sanctuary or mailed to FPC.



"Esther and Ahasuerus", Charles Blakeman

“When Morning Gild’s the Skies”

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries: May Jesus Christ be praised! Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair: May Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find: May Jesus Christ be praised! Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this: May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round in joyful notes resound: May Jesus Christ be praised! **Let air and sea and sky from depth to height reply:** May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine: May Jesus Christ be praised! Be this the eternal song through all the ages long: May Jesus Christ be praised!

“A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar”

A prophet-woman broke a jar, by Love’s divine appointing. With rare perfume she filled the room, presiding and anointing. A prophet-woman broke a jar, the sneers of scorn defying. With rare perfume she filled the room, preparing Christ for dying.

A faithful woman left a tomb by Love’s divine commission. She saw; she heard; she preached the Word, arising from submission. A faithful woman left a tomb, with resurrection gospel. She saw; she heard; she preached the Word, apostle to apostles.

Though woman-wisdom, woman-truth, for centuries were hidden, unsung, unwritten, and unheard, derided and forbidden, the Spirit’s breath, the Spirit’s fire, on free and slave descending, can tumble our dividing walls, our shame and sadness mending.

The Spirit knows; the Spirit calls, by Love’s divine ordaining, the friends we need, to serve and lead, their powers and gifts unchaining. The Spirit knows; the Spirit calls, from women, men, and children, the friends we need, to serve and lead. Rejoice, and make them welcome!

“Our God”

Water, You turned into wine Opened the eyes of the blind
There’s no one like You None like You

Into the darkness, You shine Out of the ashes we rise There's no one like You None like You

Our God is greater Our God is stronger God, You are higher than any other Our God is healer Awesome in power Our God, our God

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There's no one like You None like You

Our God is greater Our God is stronger God, You are higher than any other Our God is healer Awesome in power
Our God, our God

And if our God is for us Then who could ever stop us? And if our God is with us Then what could stand against?

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