



# First Presbyterian

## CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God

October 22, 2023

The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

*\*Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

### WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

Aria

Peeters

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 96

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth.

**Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations; his marvelous works among all peoples.

**For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.**

For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

**Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

**Come, let us worship God.**

\*HYMN 446 (V.1-3)

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Glorious things of you, O God, are spoken from our lips as we sing that your repose is unshakable as the rocks of all ages. Yet we confess this morning, O Lord, that our repose – our peacefulness and tranquility - finds its foundation too often resting on the sands of current events. We are deeply troubled by the hostile turn of global events; we are concerned by the fickleness of our national economy; and perhaps most unsettling, we fret over the future of our church and our Presbyterian denomination. Lord, we admit to being at times faithless and not fully confident in your continuous presence in our lives. Send your Spirit to assure us that with you, O Lord, all things are possible. In Jesus' name we pray.**

*Silent prayer*

**Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, we worship a mysterious and unknowable God and thus underestimate God's will and purposes for our lives. Yet we can be assured that despite all our failings, we are the sure heirs of God's forgiveness and redemption through our Lord Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord!

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

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. Amen.**

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 45:1-7

Matthew 22:15-22

SERMON

Joyfully Unexpected!

Rev. Larry Van Hise

ANTHEM

Prayer for Peace

text: St. Francis of Assisi  
music: Benjamin Harlan  
The Chancel Choir

Lord, make me an instrument,  
Lord, make me an instrument,  
Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.

That where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, let there be faith;  
Where there is despair, hope,  
Where there is darkness, light;  
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console,  
To be understood as to understand,  
To be loved as to love.

It is in the giving that we receive;  
It is in the pard'ning that we are pardoned;  
It is in the dying that we are born to eternal life.

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Humbled by God's generosity, let us offer our gifts to God and God's ministries through Christ's church.

*Please leave your offering in the boxes at the front and rear of the sanctuary  
or make your gifts online or via mail.*

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God, you meet our needs and transform us for service. Accept these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our commitment to witness to Christ's ministry in your world. Amen.**

### \*RESPONSE

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### 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.**

### WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

#### \*HYMN 145 (V. 1-4)

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

#### \*BENEDICTION

#### POSTLUDE

Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

Peeters

#### Worship Leaders

Rev. Larry Van Hise

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

Pat Koefoed, Liturgist

Chris and Candy Gulotta, Coffee Hour Hosts

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed

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