



# First Presbyterian

## CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God

June 4, 2023

Trinity Sunday

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

### WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

Thee We Adore (Hymn 519)

Wood

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

### WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ascribe to God glory and strength.

**Ascribe to God the glory of God's name.**

We gather to worship God.

**In response to God's power we cry "glory!"**

May the Lord give strength to the people.

**May the Lord bless the people with peace.**

\*HYMN 138 (V.1-4)

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see,  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee  
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we know that you are always there to lead us, yet we somehow lose our way and fall back into fear. We confess that we have stumbled, and we recognize our need for you to lift us up and help us start again. Forgive us our failings, restore us to strength, and reconcile us with you, ourselves, and each other, through the power of Christ and the gift of your Spirit.**

*Silent prayer*

**Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven us.  
**Thanks be to God.**

\*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

Psalm 29

John 3:1-17

SERMON

Community within God

Rev. Dr. Alexandra Hendrickson

ANTHEM

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Johann Jacob Schutz  
tune: Mit Freuden Zart

Sing praise to God, who reigns above,  
The God of all creation,  
The God of power, the God of love,  
The God of our salvation;  
With healing balm my soul is filled,  
And every faithless murmur stilled:  
To God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power hath made  
God's gracious mercy keepeth;  
By morning glow or evening shade  
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;  
Within the kingdom of God's might,  
Lo! all is just and all is right:  
To God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away,  
But through all grief distressing,  
An ever present help and stay,  
Our peace and joy and blessing;  
As with a mother's tender hand,  
God gently leads the chosen band:  
To God all praise and glory!

Thus, all my gladsome way along,  
I sing aloud Thy praises  
That all may hear the grateful song  
My voice unwearied raises.  
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,  
Both soul and body bear your part:  
To God all praise and glory!

### **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 box at the front 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.**

#### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God. People will come from east and west, north and south, to sit at the table in the kingdom of God. This is the table of Jesus Christ. Our Lord invites all who call him Savior to eat at the feast which he has prepared.

## THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PRAYER

It is truly right and our greatest joy...

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

## PRAYER

You are holy, O God of majesty...

...great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

...all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*The bread and juice are distributed together and can be enjoyed immediately.*

## 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.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Generous God, we thank you that at your holy table you have fed us again with bread and wine, the food of everlasting life. Send us, your servants, into the world, that we act wisely, seek the good of our neighbors, and call others to come to your feast, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**WE GO IN GOD'S NAME**

\*HYMN 423 (V.1-5)

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Does its successive journeys run,  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made,  
And praises throng to crown His head;  
His name, like sweet perfume, shall rise  
With every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue  
Dwell on His love with sweetest song,  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on His name.

Blessings abound where'er He reigns;  
The prisoners leap to lose their chains,  
The weary find eternal rest,  
And all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring  
Honors peculiar to our King;  
Angels descend with songs again,  
And earth repeat the loud Amen!

\*BENEDICTION

May the Lord, who has named you, bless you, reminding you who you are: a beloved child of God.  
May Jesus, who walks alongside, bless us, calling us from fear to peace.  
May the Spirit, who energizes, bless us, opening us to possibilities of faith, hope, and love.  
Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

POSTLUDE

Verset No. 1 (Thee We Adore)

Ballmann

*We welcome the Rev. Dr. Alexandra Hendrickson to the pulpit today. The Rev. Dr. Alexandra Hendrickson is a member of the Lehigh Presbytery and has served as Lafayette College's chaplain since 2012. She and her family live in Easton.*

*The flowers on the communion table today are given by Carol Mensah for her birthday.*

~\*~\*~

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Alexandra Hendrickson, Guest Preacher

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

Donna Van Norman, Liturgist

Noralee Manzek and Sherrie Moki, Communion Servers

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

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## **Psalm 29**

A Psalm of David.

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;  
worship the Lord in holy splendour.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the Lord, over mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is powerful;  
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.  
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.  
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,  
and strips the forest bare;  
and in his temple all say, 'Glory!'

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king for ever.  
May the Lord give strength to his people!  
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

## **John 3:1-17**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'