



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God

July 16, 2023

The Seventh 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

Lied (Song)

Vierne

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 65

Praise is due to you, O God in Zion and to you shall vows be performed.

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation.

By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might.

You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of the waves, the tumult of your peoples.

You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it.

The river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain for so have you prepared it.

You water its furrows abundantly, setting its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.

Come, let us worship God.

*HYMN 476 (V.1-5)

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We worship you, O Lord, and gratefully sing of your power and your love. But we admit, O God, that there are days when we discount your power and dismiss your love and sink into a hopeless funk. We become overwhelmed with the hard realities of life, with the unfairness of our situations and the unfulfillment of our desires. We lose sight of your presence in our lives and lose all hope for tomorrow. Forgive us for those days when our faith is replaced with despair. Send your Spirit to keep us mindful that with you in our lives, hope for tomorrow is the true reality for with you, O God, nothing is impossible.

Silent prayer

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rejoice, O ye saints of the church that no matter the depth of our hopelessness nor the fickleness of our faith, the grace and forgiveness of God is a constant presence in our lives through the love and peace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*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 55:10-13

Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

SERMON

The Farmer in the Dell

Rev. Vernon Van Hise

SOLO

Here Am I

based on words by Brian Wren
Richard Taylor, soloist

Here am I, where underneath the bridges,
of our windy cities, homeless people sleep.

Here am I, where in decaying houses,
little children shiver, crying from the cold.

Where are you?

Here am I, standing in a line up,
waiting for a handout, aching for a job.

Here am I, with pensioners and strikers,
sing and march together, search for something new.

Where are you?

Here am I, where two or three are gathered,
ready to be altered, sharing wine and bread.

Here am I, where those who hear the preacher,
change their way of living, find the way to life.

Where are you? Where are you? Where are you?

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.**

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 560 (V. 1-3)

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Thanks Be to Thee

Handel

Worship Leaders

Rev. Vernon Van Hise

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

Linda Martin, Liturgist

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

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