



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God
September 12, 2021
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

O God of Love, O God of Peace
Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

When Peace Like a River

Bliss; arr. DeCou

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Philippians 4:1-9

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, Rejoice!

Today we choose to rejoice. Today we choose to worship and give thanks.

Seek the peace of God that will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Today we choose God's peace; today we lift our prayers and place our trust in God.

Turn your hearts away from the distractions and disappointments of life.

Fix your attention on things above and worship the Lord who loves you and cares for you.

We come to worship God who hears our prayers and offers us peace.

*HYMN No. 403 (V.1, 2)

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged:
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer!

WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Francis of Assisi, 1181-1226

Our Father, help us to live each day with faith and hope and love. Make us patient and compassionate with one another in the fret and jar of life, remembering that each of us fights a hard fight and walks a lonely way. Forgive us, Lord, if we hurt our fellow souls; teach us a gentler tone, a sweeter charity of words, and a more healing touch. Sustain us, O God, when we must face sorrow; give us courage for the day and hope for tomorrow.

Silent Prayer

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ – and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous grace.

*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 READING

Philippians 4:6-9

SERMON

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

ANTHEM

I Choose Love

music: Mark Miller
text: Lindy Thompson

In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose peace.
In the midst of war, I choose peace.
In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,
I will seek the good once more, I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise.
When my world falls down, I will rise.
When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,
I will climb to holy ground, I will rise.

In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love.
I choose love.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER FOR THE ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

Holy God, Creator of all people and all nations: It is with sorrow we remember the tragic events that occurred on 9/11 - 20 years ago. We lift to you in prayer all those who died in the Twin Towers, at the Pentagon, and on United Airlines Flight 93, in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. We entrust them to your loving care. Console all who mourn this loss. We pray in the hope that all who trust in you find peace and rest in your Kingdom.

Give us peace, O Christ.

We pray for those who courageously responded to provide aid and comfort to the afflicted on that day. May their painful memories be healed and transformed into strength. May the example they set continue to inspire future generations to be "first responders" who bravely serve others. May the sacrifice of those who ran towards danger that day, give us compassion for the many front-line workers who serve during the pandemic.

Give us peace, O Christ.

We cry out to you once more this day, for all the places and people touched by violence and war over the past 20 years. We pray for the men and women who served faithfully on behalf of our country in Afghanistan, and we remember the fallen who will never return home. We pray for the people of Afghanistan caught in the crossfire of conflict. God of peace, help the global community to continue to respond with compassion to those displaced by war. For all people and nations who have known the devastation of violence, we pray for peace.

Give us peace, O Christ.

We pray for ourselves as we seek to remember, honor and learn from the past:

By resolving to live lives that are based on respect for one another;

By resolving to never settle disagreements in our lives in a violent way;

By resolving not to prejudge entire ethnic or religious groups based on the acts of some;

By resolving that justice, not revenge, prevail in our world.

Let us resolve that in the face of hatred, we will show love;
That in times of despair, we will be voices of hope and creators of new dreams;
That in times of darkness, we will be sources of light.

Let us resolve that we never regard forgiveness as weakness, but rather as a source of strength in our lives and in our world.

Give us peace, O Christ.

We continue to pray for those suffering inner wounds from illness, abuse, poverty, addiction. Healer, bring comfort and healing where it is possible. Bring your peace to all who are weary and over extended.

Give us peace, O Christ.

Holy God, as we at First Presbyterian Church of Easton prepare for another program year, we thank you for the ways that we have been able to worship this last year and a half. It has been a difficult journey for the staff, leadership and congregation members and friends. May you bless all our members and friends of this Church. Whether we gather in-person or online, we worship you, God of love, and your presence is near. Your abiding peace is the source of our resilience.

Continue to give us peace, O Christ.

We pray all of this in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray saying,

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.

MOMENT FOR GIVING

The Psalms urge us to give thanks to God at all times, for everything God has provided. In gratitude, we offer to God a portion of what God has given to us, trusting that God will bless what we bring and multiply our gifts to serve God's good purposes. Please leave your offering in the plate in the back of the sanctuary or make your gifts online or via mail. Thank you for your support.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*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.**

*HYMN No. 372 (V. 1, 2, 4)

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Lord, I want to be a Christian
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord I want to be a Christian in-a my heart.
In-a my heart, in-a my heart, in-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord I want to be more loving in-a my heart.
In-a my heart, in-a my heart, in-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord I want to be more loving in-a my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart.
In-a my heart, in-a my heart, in-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

Do what you have learned and received and seen and heard in Christ, and the peace of God will be with you. And may that peace, which passes all understanding, guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Us Peace)

Anonymous

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Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Elizabeth Campbell, soloist

Gloria Snyder, organ and piano

Peter Becker, liturgist

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Kimberly Rausch, Pat Koefoed, Luke McGloughlin

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The Call to Worship is from <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/rejoice-in-the-lord-always-21st-century-worship-resources-for-the-seventeen>

The Prayer of Confession by Francis of Assisi, posted on thischurch.com, <http://thischurch.com/>

Philippians 4:6-9

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.