



# First Presbyterian

## CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God

September 17, 2023

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

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

Be Thou with Them

J. S. Bach

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits.**

Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases?

**Who redeems your life from the pit?**

Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy?

**Who satisfies you with good as long as you live,**

so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's?

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name.**

**Come, let us worship God.**

\*HYMN 464 (V. 1-3)

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Joyfully we adore you, O God of glory and Lord of love, as your joyful music leads us in the triumph song of life. But Lord, we confess this morning that when our song of life is not a triumph or glorious, we begin to doubt your presence and love in our lives. We tend to praise your name during our sunny days but despair and wonder where you are when the days are dark and gloomy. Lord, our faith is fragile and our acceptance of your faithful presence is too dependent on our days of bliss. Send your Spirit to support us in our doubt and sustain us in the faith that you are always a loving presence in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray.**

*Silent prayer*

**Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The fickle nature of our faith matters little to God, for God understands fully that we are all too fragile and human. In response, God sent Christ into our lives and because of that gift we are now and will always be forgiven and redeemed people. 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

Genesis 50:15-21

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

SERMON

Through the Looking Glass

Rev. Vernon Van Hise

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Peace and Global Witness

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 281 (V.1-3)

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Cwm Rhondda (Hymn 281)

Callahan

Worship Leaders

Rev. Vernon Van Hise

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

Darcel Hayes-Bridges, Liturgist

Chris Gulotta, Coffee Hour Host

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

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