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Order of Worship, First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, August 23, 2020
12th Sunday after Pentecost

Announcements

Rev. Stephanie Ells

Prelude

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

arr. King

For Prayer and Reflection:

Holy God - in this precious hour, we pause and gather to hear your word -- to do so, we break from our work responsibilities and from our play fantasies; we move from our fears that overwhelm and from our ambitions that are too strong. Free us in these moments from every distraction, that we may focus to listen, that we may hear, that we may change. Amen. ~ Walter Brueggemann

Call to Worship

from Psalm 33

Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous;

it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.

Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.

For the word of the Lord is right and true;

he is faithful in all he does.

The Lord loves righteousness and justice;

the earth is full of his unfailing love.

Opening Prayer

***Hymn of Praise #56**

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” (vv. 1,2,4)

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.

My soul with comfort rich he fills, and every grief he gently stills:

To God all praise and glory!

What God’s almighty power has made, in mercy he is keeping;

By morning glow or evening shade his eye is never sleeping.

And where he rules in kingly might, there all is just and all is right:

To God all praise and glory!

Let all who name Christ’s holy name give God the praise and glory.

Let all who know his power proclaim aloud the wondrous story.

Cast every idol from its throne; the Lord is God, and He alone:

To God all praise and glory!

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Forgive us, Lord, when we are closed and locked up with negative acts, thoughts and emotions. Help us not to be imprisoned by fear, hatred, prejudice, unforgiveness, pride, greed, anger, and selfishness; but open our hearts to the values of Your Kingdom. Open our eyes to see Your Kingdom and help us to be an active part of it. Open our ears to those who cry for help and justice.

Silent Confession (Here let each worshiper offer silent, personal prayers of confession)

Declaration of Forgiveness

**Gloria Patri #734*

“Glory Be to the Father”

Greatorex

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.

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Special Music

“O Day of Peace”

Jerusalem

Second Scripture Reading

Romans 12:1-8

Sermon

**Hymn of Response #571*

“Christ, You Call Us All to Service”

In Babilone

Christ, you call us all to service, call us all who follow you;

Plant in us a deep commitment all your work and will to do.

Fire a passion for your justice, in us kindle love of peace;

Help us heal the brokenhearted, to the captive bring release.

Teach us how to work together, brothers, sisters, side by side,

Equal partners in the struggle, in the cause of truth allied.

To each one some gift is given, man or woman, young or old;

Help us use each skill and talent your great purpose to unfold.

Let us be a servant people, reconciling, ending strife,

Seeking ways more just of sharing and of ordering human life.

Fill us with a glowing vision of this world as it should be;

Send us forth to change that vision into blest reality.

**Affirmation of Faith*

selection from the Belhar Confession**

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church,

the communion of saints called from the entire human family...

that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways:

in that we love one another;

that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another;

that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully
to be of benefit and blessing to one another;
that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind;
have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit,
are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup,
confess one name, are obedient to one Lord,
work for one cause, and share one hope;
together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ;
together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity;
together know and bear one another's burdens,
thereby fulfilling the law of Christ;
that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another;
that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness;
pray together; together serve God in this world;
and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and 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, for ever. Amen.

**Sending Hymn*

“Reamo LeBoga”

Nshkazongwe

Reamo leboga, reamo leboga, reamo leboga, modimo wa rona.

We give our hands to you, (sing 3x's) because you reached for us.

We give our eyes to you, (sing 3x's) because you looked for us.

We give our feet to you, (sing 3 x's) because you walk with us.

We give our breath to you, (sing 3 x's) because you breathe in us.

We give our hearts to you, (sing 3 x's) because you first loved us.

Reamo leboga, reamo leboga, reamo leboga, modimo wa rona

Benediction

Postlude

“Festive Voluntary”

Lau

**Those who are able, please stand*

****Worship Note:** *The 222nd General Assembly (2016) approved an amendment to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Book of Confessions that added the Confession of Belhar. The Confession of Belhar was written as a protest against a heretical theological stance by the white Dutch Reformed Church that used the Bible and the Confessions to justify the harsh and unjust system of Apartheid.*

Leaders in worship:

Liturgists: Beth Foxen, Sam Daniels
Preacher: Rev. Stephanie Ells
Music Director: Kristen Eby
Pianist: Jill Klinebriel
Additional Musicians: Alex Eby, John Eby
Technical Directors: Bryan and Sara Blair

Lectionary Reading for August 30

Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”
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“Festive Voluntary”
Music: Lau
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“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”
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Brethern’s *Kirchensänge*
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“Christ, You Call Us All to Service”
Words: Patterson/Music: Dutch melody
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