

Order of Service

October 11, 2020

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*We are so glad you are able to join us in worship this morning – or whenever you are able to join us on line. We invite you to become part of our community by visiting our web page and signing up to be part of our email list, visiting our Facebook page, or joining our Zoom Bible Study and other events. Even as we worship in new ways, we know that God is present in all times and places, and hears the praise when we lift up our hearts. God’s peace be with you.*

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GATHERING

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship *(Psalm 106:1-5)*

Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
for the Lord’s steadfast love endures forever.
Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord,
or declare all God’s praise?
Happy are those who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times.
Remember me, O Lord, when you show favor to your people;
help me when you deliver them;
that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,
that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,
that I may glory in your heritage.

Prelude

Invocation

Gracious God, the news this week continues to unsettle us. The state of the world, the state of our own hearts, frightens and stuns us. We need your transformative word to call us back to you, to remind us of who and whose we are, to shape us for your service in ways that shine Christ’s light in our darkness. Send your Spirit so that we will hear and respond rightly to your word to your people. Amen.

Call to Confession

We have sinned and fallen short of what God commands and requires of us. We have no excuses, but we have confidence in the Lord’s promises. Therefore, we are bold to confess our sin to God and with one another.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Lord, you see how stubborn we are, how quickly we turn from you toward idols of our own making, how impatient we are when we do not get what we think we deserve. We forget your providential care for us, the countless ways you provide, your gracious response to our cries for help. We do not think on things like justice and goodness. We are not known for our gentleness. We give in to the loud voices that tell us to tend to our own needs only and neglect the very ones you command us to feed. We cannot justify our behavior, we can only confess it, repent and ask again for your mercy. Forgive us, Lord, so that we can bear witness to your character of loving kindness. In Christ’s name we pray, amen.

Assurance of Pardon (*Psalm 25:8-9*)

The Lord's wrath relents, and God instead pours out mercy and grace. Our God refuses to give up on us and instead forgives and frees us. Friends, believe the exceedingly good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

Song of Thanksgiving **I Am A Child of God**

*I am a child of God, I am a glimpse of God's new creation.
I am a child of God, I am a child of God.*

THE WORD

Scripture

Sermon *Rev. Karen Russell*

Song of Reflection **Just As I Am, Without One Plea**

Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou biddest me come to thee. O Lamb of God, I come. I come. Just as I am, tho tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt; fightings within and fears without, O Lamb of God, I come. I come. Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken ev'ry barrier down. Now to be thine, yea, thine alone: O Lamb of God, I come. I come.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Affirmation of faith (*from A Brief Statement of Faith*)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's

image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

Call for the Offering

God's love for us never ends. God's mercies are new every morning. When we consider God's goodness and mercy, we are humbled and awed. In gratitude and joy we give to God our morning's offering. Let us worship as we give.

When you give to this church, you are giving to relief and outreach efforts worldwide. A portion of our offerings goes to the general mission offering of the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois, and also to the General Assembly. These funds are used regionally and internationally to feed, house, rebuild, provide medical care, and other services and evangelistic efforts throughout the whole world that God so loves. (And you can always give extra and specify it for a particular purpose!) Thank you for giving – and for prayerfully considering how you can and will support the ongoing ministry of First Presbyterian Church in all the world.

How to Give: you can go directly to our website and use our online giving platform to set up a one-time or recurring gift; you can mail your offering directly to the church (POB 132, Palestine IL 62451), or you can drop your tithes and offerings at the church office, Mon – Thurs, 10 am – 2 pm.

Song of Thanksgiving

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father. There is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not. As thou has been thou forever wilt be. Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see – all I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest; sun, moon and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see – all I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God, you invite us to the banquet, welcome us to your table, send your prophets with your instructions and your Son to save us from our sin. The depth and breadth of your compassion cannot ever be earned or repaid, hence we call it grace. Accept, we pray, these gifts, given in thanksgiving and in the hope that you will bless and use them to call others to the heavenly banquet.
Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (debts & debtors)

Lord, we rejoice in you always. Even in times of trial and despite seasons of doubt and pain, we rejoice. We come to you pleading

on behalf of the world you so love, asking for signs of your grace, interventions of your mercy, transformation of our lives so we might reflect your goodness. When we grow weary and bereft, send your Spirit to encourage and uphold us. When we are tempted to give in to violence or force, remind us that we, your people, are to be known for our gentleness. Be near to us that we might know your peace.

God who loves the world: **hear our prayer.**

Grant us the strength of faith not to worry, but to instead think on things that are honorable. Help us to live with integrity, showing respect to your creation and love to our neighbors. May our actions reflect your character, the body of Christ an extension of Jesus' earthly ministry until he comes again.

God who loves the world: **hear our prayer**

Give us the courage to not only think about justice, but enact and embody it. Nudge us to work for equity and give an honest accounting of past wrongs and present oppression. Knowing that we are united in Christ and called to a ministry of reconciliation, empower us to do the hard, tangible work of repairing the breach and restoring the streets.

God who loves the world: **hear our prayer**

Reveal to us that which is pure, those things that speak of your holiness and point to your will. Do not let us be overtaken by cynicism or despair. Give us eyes to see you present and at work, ears to hear your voice however and through whomever you choose to speak, hearts inscribed with your word and moved to do your work.

God who loves the world: **hear our prayer**

Teach us to recognize that which is pleasing in your sight so that we can name it, emulate it, expand it. In the suffering so pervasive and varied in our world, call forth hope and embolden us to be bearers of it. Surround those bent over in grief and pain with disciples who refuse to turn away, people committed to sitting in the darkness until the dawn comes.

God who loves the world: **hear our prayer**

Break our hearts so we might see the sorrow and anxiety of others. Help us put aside our own selfish concerns and reach out to those who are sick, those who are facing death, those who are mourning, those who are lonely, those who long for human touch. Help us find new ways of being together, both in good times and in bad. Send healing and wholeness to those we know and lift up, and those who are known only to you.

God who loves the world: **hear our prayer**

Open our mouths to proclaim your praise. As our anxieties grow and our divisions increase, send the Holy Spirit to remind us of all Jesus taught us, give us the right words to speak at the right time, turn our thoughts to you so that we will think and act on your loving kindness, your free flowing justice, your pursuit of goodness and mercy. We pray in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who taught us to say when we pray, Our Father...

Benediction (*Romans 15:5-6*)

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that

together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Charge

Clothe yourself in Christ.

Go forth into the world with compassion and justice in your heart.

Give strength to the weak; give voice to the silent.

See one another, hear one another;

Care for one another, love one another.

It's all that easy.

And it's all that hard.

Blessing

Love and serve the Lord your God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and remain with you always.

Postlude

© Presbyterian Outlook, 2020. Liturgy adapted from material written by Jill Duffield and provided for free distribution. For more resources visit: pres-outlook.org.

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THANK YOU to all those who help lead worship, and make our on-line worship possible: Linda Ryan-Catt, David Fulling, Meredith Gentry, MaryAnn Catt, Mark Catt, and Charlie Catt.

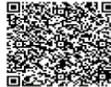
And thank YOU for joining us.

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Online giving links

www.firstprespalestine.com and on the giving app

Online giving lets you make supporting First Presbyterian Church simple. You can set up a one-time gift, or a weekly/monthly offering.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Our next outdoor worship service** is planned for October 24 at 6 pm, weather permitting.
- **Morning Prayer** each Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 am, Facebook Live.
- **Friday Morning Bible Study** is taking a two week hiatus while Pastor Karen is on vacation. Plan to join us on October 30.
- **Get the latest information on worship services, church activities, prayer requests, etc. by signing up to be on our e mail list. Go to our website, www.firstprespalestine.com and scroll to the bottom to fill out the subscription form. Or e mail the church office and we will add you to the list.**

First Presbyterian Church
POB 132, 106 W. Market St.

Palestine, IL 62451

618-586-5321

1stpresby.palestine@gmail.com