

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR JULY 23, 2023

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT 713 *Touch the Earth Lightly (vrs.1 & 4)* TENDERNESS

Gathering Around The Word

*CALL TO WORSHIP *from Ps. 8:1, 3-5*

One: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is
your name in all the earth!

All: **You have set your glory above the heavens.**

One: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;

All: **what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?**

One: Yet you have made them a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honor.

*HYMN 65 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* CWM RHONDDA

CALL TO CONFESSION *from Rom. 8:14-15*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*) *from Rom. 8:12-25*

**Merciful God, your creatures cry—creation groans—
but we turn away; we surround ourselves with noise.**

**We are quick to excuse ourselves from responsibility;
we are young; we are old; we are tired; we are busy.
It is hard to imagine that we might make a difference.**

Life-giving God, wash us clean.

Restore our imaginations and our hearts.

**Let your courage and compassion flow through our veins
until we love with abandon and our hands reach out in blessing,
for the creation waits with eager longing
for the revealing of the children of God. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

People of God, hear the word of the Lord. In the life, death, and
resurrection of Jesus, God says unequivocally, irrevocably: you are
my own; you are forgiven; and I need you to be about my business
in the world.

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

*PASSING THE PEACE

We invite you to share the peace of Christ with others.

*RESPONSE 581

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.**

Listening To the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING *GENESIS 28:10-19*
(The scripture readings can be found on the side panel of the bulletin)

ANTHEM *In Christ Alone*

SECOND READING *MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43*

SERMON *"A Thin Place"* Rev. Dr. Mike Ward

Responding to the Word

*HYMN 714 *God of the Fertile Fields* ITALIAN HYMN

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *APOSTLES' CREED*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,**

**and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;**

he descended into hell;

on the third day he rose again from the dead;

**he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;**

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and life everlasting. Amen.**

SHARING OUR PRAYERS *See prayer concerns list, back page*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER *page 35 in hymnal*

GIVING BACK TO GOD'S KINGDOM *from Gen. 28:14*

*God blesses us that we might carry
that blessing into the world.
Let us give with grateful hearts.*

OFFERTORY

*THE DOXOLOGY 606
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God Sends Us Forth

*HYMN 772 *Live into Hope* TRURO

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*BLESSING

HYMN *Irish Blessing* *inside back cover of hymnal*

POSTLUDE

Visiting today? Welcome!

Please tell us a little about yourself!
You can scan this QR code with your
smartphone to fill out our online form.
We would love to get to know you better!



This Week

TODAY @ 4:00pm - Interracial Dialogue
Tue., July 25 @ 6:00pm - Session Meeting
Wed., July 26 @ 6:30pm - Choir Practice
Thur., July 27 @ 5:45pm - Centering Prayer

Worship Assistants Next Week

Liturgist.....Marshall Judy
Ushers.....Richard Wright & Mary Jones
Sound.....Sue Guffey
Coffee Plus.....Brenda Wesley

First Reading—Genesis 28:10-19

¹⁰Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹²And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, ¹⁴and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" ¹⁷And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

¹⁸So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹He called that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Second Reading—Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

Scripture verses taken from the New Revised Standard Updated Edition



Prayers for Comfort, Concern, and Healing

The family of Diane, Linda Bonardel's sister; Pat Carpenter; Dave Fraley and family; Ed & Linda Cook; John Wright; Nora Harp; Jon Burlew; Hannah Vaught's Brother-in-law, Steve Cravens; Jeff & Kathy Bishop's daughter, Ashley; Jared and Ann Hines; John Joplin; Jack Reynold's children; Bill House; Ed & Joyce Mick; Sherry Woodall's sister, Ardenia; Leslie Phillips

Current Giving

	Rec'd month of June	Needed Monthly	Received YTD	Needed YTD
Pledged Offering	\$8,975	\$13,934	\$80,686	\$83,603
Non-Pledged	\$5,106	\$3,154	\$25,242	\$18,926

Assisting In Worship Today

Ministers.....Every Member
Liturgist.....Mary Beth Waller
Ushers.....John & Lynn Cain
Sound.....Josh Jones
Coffee Plus.....Laura Wright
Director of Music.....Theresa Jean Kibby
Piano & Organ.....Debby McDonald
Preacher.....Rev. Dr. Mike Ward

Deacons:

Paula Burlew Eileen Stockham Carol Prater
 Cindy Fountain Mary Beth Waller Stephanie Ousley

Elders:

Class of 2023 *Class of 2024* *Class of 2025*
 Forrest Brock Charles Leveridge Kelly Joplin
 Kimberly King Zack Vaught Sharon Mandt
 Chris Phillips John Wright Perry Waller

First Presbyterian Church

July 23rd, 2023

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost



Péterfy, László. Angel of the Plains, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59696> [retrieved July 17, 2023]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Paks_Szent%C3%A9lek-templom_szobor.JPG.

People of God, Welcome Home!

May Christ's peace and presence fill your heart as you worship this day, and may you go forth with the light and love of God shining within you.

We welcome you to worship, and ask that any electronic devices be placed on silent so that all may hear what God has to say.