

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR SEPT. 24, 2023

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Handbells: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* CONVERSE
Arr. S. E. Rogers

INTROIT 351 *All Who Love and Serve Your City (vrs1&4)* CHARLESTOWN

Gathering Around The Word

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One This is a new day filled with fresh possibilities.
**All: We gather to participate in the exciting things
God is doing.**

One: Old ways and tired routines are left behind.
**All: Our God comes to us in unexpected ways
and refreshes all who join the adventure.
Let us together explore the wonders of God.**

***HYMN 664** *Morning Has Broken* BUNESSAN

CALL TO CONFESSION from Phil. 1:27

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison) from Ps. 145:7; Jonah 3:10-4:11;
God of abundant goodness, Matt. 20:1-16

**we confess that we want your grace
for ourselves
but often wish punishment or exclusion
on others.**

**We judge the efforts and motives of others
while ignoring the faults of our own.**

**Forgive us, we pray,
when we let jealousy overtake us.**

**Forgive us, we pray,
when we are petty even in the presence
of your generosity.**

**Forgive us, we pray,
when we feel slighted by you.**

May we ask once again for your mercy?

Will you help us to be more merciful toward one another?

**We pray in the name of Christ Jesus,
by whose grace we are saved. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON from Phil. 1:29

One: God extends to us mercy beyond our deserving,
grace beyond our ability to earn it.

**All: God has granted us the privilege of believing in Christ;
therefore we will live as grateful and forgiven people!
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 from Jonah 4:7;
Matt. 20:11-12

FIRST READING JONAH 3:10-4:11
(The scripture readings can be found on the side panel of the bulletin)

ANTHEM 756 *O God of Every Nation (vrs1,2,4)* LLANGLOFFAN

SECOND READING MATTHEW 20:1-16

SERMON "Of course it's not fair!" Elder Karen May

Responding to the Word

***HYMN 12** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* ST. DENIO

***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

*Thank you, God, for this opportunity to share
in your creative and restorative work among all people.
Because you have blessed us, we have much to give.
These offerings express our gratitude
and our wish to be more fully your own loyal community.*

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 765** *May the God of Hope Go with Us (x3)* ARGENTINA

*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! @ 12:00pm - Presbyterian Women Luncheon
Sun., Sept. 24 @ 4:00pm - Interracial Dialogue
Tue., Sept. 26 @ 5:00pm - Earth Care Team Meeting
Wed., Sept. 27 @ 6:30pm - Choir Practice
Thur., Sept. 28 @ 5:45pm - Centering Prayer
Thur., Sept. 28 @ 6:00pm - Special Called Session Meeting
Sun., Oct. 1 @ 11:00am - Worship & Communion
Oct. 2 - Oct. 5 - Church Office Closed

Worship Assistants Next Week

Liturgist.....Naomi Judy
Ushers.....Suzanne Kidd, Carol Wade, Autumn & Forrest Brock
Audio.....Paul Guffey
Video.....Sue Guffey
Coffee Plus.....Lynn Cain

*for portions marked with an asterisk, you're invited to rise in body or spirit

First Reading—Jonah 3:10-4:11

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

Second Reading—Matthew 20:1-16

¹“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”



Prayers for Comfort, Concern, and Healing

Emilee Barber; Austin West; Rogelio Castillo; David Bosh; Don Haney; Alice Harrison; Pauline & Bill House's son, Jack Wood; Autumn Brock's mom, Marie; Jennifer Williams; Rebecca Davis; Richard Wright's sister, Peggy; Glenda Wilson; Pat Carpenter; Bill House; Ed & Joyce Mick; Leslie Phillips

Current Giving

	Rec'd month of August	Needed Monthly	Received YTD	Needed YTD
Pledged Offering	\$11,447	\$13,934	\$105,588	\$111,470
Non-Pledged	\$4,785	\$3,154	\$34,809	\$25,234

Assisting In Worship Today

Ministers.....Every Member
Liturgist.....John Wright
Ushers.....Cathy Wright & Marty Whitson
Sound.....Terry Randall
Coffee Plus.....Laura Wright
Director of Music.....Theresa Jean Kibby
Piano & Organ.....Debby McDonald
Preacher.....Elder Karen May

Deacons:

Paula Burlew Eileen Stockham Carol Prater
 Cindy Fountain Mary Beth Waller

Elders:

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

First Presbyterian Church

September 24th, 2023

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost



JESUS MAFA. The Late-arriving Workers, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57561> [retrieved September 20, 2023]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

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.