

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR OCT. 8, 2023

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT 70 *What Does the Lord Require of You?* MOON

Gathering Around The Word

*CALL TO WORSHIP *from Phil. 3:7-8; Matt. 21:42*

One: Whatever gains I had,
these I have come to regard as loss
because of Christ.

All: I regard everything as loss
because of the surpassing value
of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

One: As the Scriptures promise:
the stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

All: This is the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes.

*HYMN 14 *For the Beauty of the Earth* DIX

CALL TO CONFESSION *from Phil. 3:4b-9*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*) *from Isa. 5:1-7*

Loving God, you have planted us
like a vineyard on a fertile hill.
You cleared away the stones,
planted us with choice vines,
and kept watch over us by night and day.
But we have not yielded the good fruit
that you expected or desired.
We are overgrown with sin,
choked with violence and injustice.

Forgive us, we pray.
Uproot our evil, prune away our sin,
and shower upon us the gift of your grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *from Phil. 3:9*

One: Our salvation does not depend on anything we have done,
but comes from the grace of God alone through faith in Jesus
Christ. This is the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

*PASSING THE PEACE
We invite you to share the peace of Christ with others.

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

*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 Phil. 3:10*

FIRST READING *MATTHEW 21:33-46*
(The scripture readings can be found on the side panel of the bulletin)

ANTHEM

SECOND READING *PHILIPPIANS 3:4B-14*

SERMON *"It's a Total Loss"* *Rev. Philip Lotspeich*

Responding to the Word

*HYMN 87 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* *GENEVAN 42*

*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 Phil. 3:8*
Without Christ, all that we have is nothing.
With Christ, all that we have is everything.
Let us offer all that we have to the Lord.

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 *from Phil. 3:10-14*

God Sends Us Forth

*HYMN 300 *We Are One in the Spirit* *THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS*

*CHARGE & BLESSING *from Phil. 3:13-14*

*BLESSING *from Ps. 80:7; Phil. 3:8*

HYMN 747 *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth* *ENVIADO*

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., Oct. 10 @ 5:00pm - Earth Care Team Meeting
Wed., Oct. 11 @ 12:00pm - Packing Food Boxes @ GFP
Wed., Oct. 11 @ 4:30pm - Mission Committee Meeting
Wed., Oct. 11 @ 6:30pm - Choir Practice
Thur., Oct. 12 @ 4:45pm - Fellowship Committee Meeting
Thur., Oct. 12 @ 5:45pm - Centering Prayer
Fri., Oct. 13 @ 1:30pm - Spiritual Practices Discussion
Sat., Oct. 14 @ 10:30am - Needle Workers Group
Sat., Oct. 14 @ 10am-2pm - Mission Fair @ Camp Burnamwood

Worship Assistants Next Week

Liturgist.....Mary Beth Waller
Ushers.....Erin Stephens & Marty Whitson
Audio.....Josh Jones
Video.....Jon Burlew
Coffee Plus.....Sue Guffey

First Presbyterian Church

October 8th, 2023

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost



Prayers for Comfort, Concern, and Healing

The family of Paul Wright Jr., Richard Wright's brother; Lynn Cain; Austin West; Rogelio Castillo; David Bosh; Don Haney; 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 Sept.	Needed Monthly	Received YTD	Needed YTD
Pledged Offering	\$9,239	\$13,934	\$114,827	\$125,404
Non-Pledged	\$3,167	\$3,154	\$37,976	\$28,389

Blessing Box Attendant

This Week.....Cathy Wright
Next Week.....Christie Adams

Assisting in Worship Today

Ministers.....Every Member
Liturgist.....Naomi Judy
Ushers.....Kim King & Zack Vaught
Audio.....Paul Guffey
Video.....Sue Guffey
Coffee Plus.....Cathy Wright
Director of Music.....Theresa Jean Kibby
Piano & Organ.....Debby McDonald
Preacher.....Rev. Philip Lotspeich

Deacons:

Paula Burlew Eileen Stockham Carol Prater
 Cindy Fountain Mary Beth Waller

Elders:

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

First Reading—Matthew 21:33-46

³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Second Reading—Philippians 3:4b-14

^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Scripture verses taken from the New Revised Standard Updated Edition



Gogh, Vincent van, 1853-1890. Vineyards with a View of Auvers, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55980> [retrieved September 28, 2023]. Original source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Vineyards_with_a_View_of_Auvers_1890_Vincent_van_Gogh.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.