

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR SEPT. 17, 2023

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Gathering Around The Word

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from 2 Timothy 2:22

One: This is the day the Lord has made.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

One: Pursue the righteousness of God.

All: We will also pursue faith, love, and peace.

One: Do so along with those who call on the Lord with a pure heart.

All: Thanks be unto God.

*HYMN

Hymn Sing!

CHOSE ANY HYMN #1-9

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Holy God, here's the truth.

We've been afraid to trust your good news
enough to speak it aloud.

It's actually terrifying to hold a big and daunting hope—
especially in the face of pain and suffering.

There have been times when we've shifted our holy hopes
to make them a little bit less holy and a little bit less true.

Unfortunately, an easier hope is no hope at all.

Love without risk is not love at all.

To keep ourselves safe,
we have made deals with the injustice and supremacy culture
already at work in the world.

We confess, Lord, that we need your courage to hope again.

We need the eyes to see your Spirit at work in the world,
we need your strength to walk forward into the unknown,

to trust the good news of the gospel,
to risk sharing our own stories of hope.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, hear the unaltered good news: Jesus who walked in hope on Palm Sunday, who declared good news into the teeth of the empire, walks with us again, and gives us the strength to see and speak of the good news as it continues to meet us in the world God made. Christ has come for us and Christ will come again. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

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.

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

*RESPONSE 11

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 Exod. 15:13

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

EXODUS 14:19-31

(The scripture readings can be found on the side panel of the bulletin)

PSALM READING

PSALM 144

One: ¹When Israel went out from Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,
²Judah became God's sanctuary,
Israel his dominion.

**All: ³The sea looked and fled;
Jordan turned back.**

**⁴The mountains skipped like rams,
the hills like lambs.**

One: ⁵Why is it, O sea, that you flee?

○ Jordan, that you turn back?

⁶O mountains, that you skip like rams?

○ hills, like lambs?

**All: ⁷Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,**

**⁸who turns the rock into a pool of water,
the flint into a spring of water.**

HYMN

Hymn Sing!

CHOSE ANY HYMN #1-9

EPISTLE READING

ROMANS 14:1-12

*GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 18:21-35

Responding to the Word

*HYMN

Hymn Sing!

CHOSE ANY HYMN #1-9

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 18

CHURCH CREED

SHARING OUR PRAYERS

See prayer concerns list, back page

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER 13

page 13 in booklet

GIVING BACK TO GOD'S KINGDOM

from Ps. 95:4-5

*God holds the depths of the earth
and the heights of the mountains,
the sea and the dry land.*

Let us offer our gifts to God, our Maker.

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

Hymn Sing!

CHOSE ANY HYMN #1-9

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*BLESSING

HYMN 15

Irish Blessing

IRISH BLESSING

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 - Picnic

Tue., Sept. 19 @ 12:00pm - Personnel Committee Meeting

Wed., Sept. 20 @ 5:30pm - Cajun Night Fellowship Meal

Wed., Sept. 20 @ 6:30pm - Choir Practice

Thur., Sept. 21 @ 4:00pm - Deacon Meeting

Thur., Sept. 21 @ 5:45pm - Centering Prayer

Worship Assistants Next Week

Liturgist.....John Wright

Ushers.....Cathy Wright & Marty Whitson

Sound.....Terry Randall

Coffee Plus.....Laura Wright

Hebrew Scripture Reading—Jeremiah 29:4-13

¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the Lord, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Epistle Reading—Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹²So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

Gospel Reading—Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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	\$4,782	\$3,154	\$34,809	\$25,234

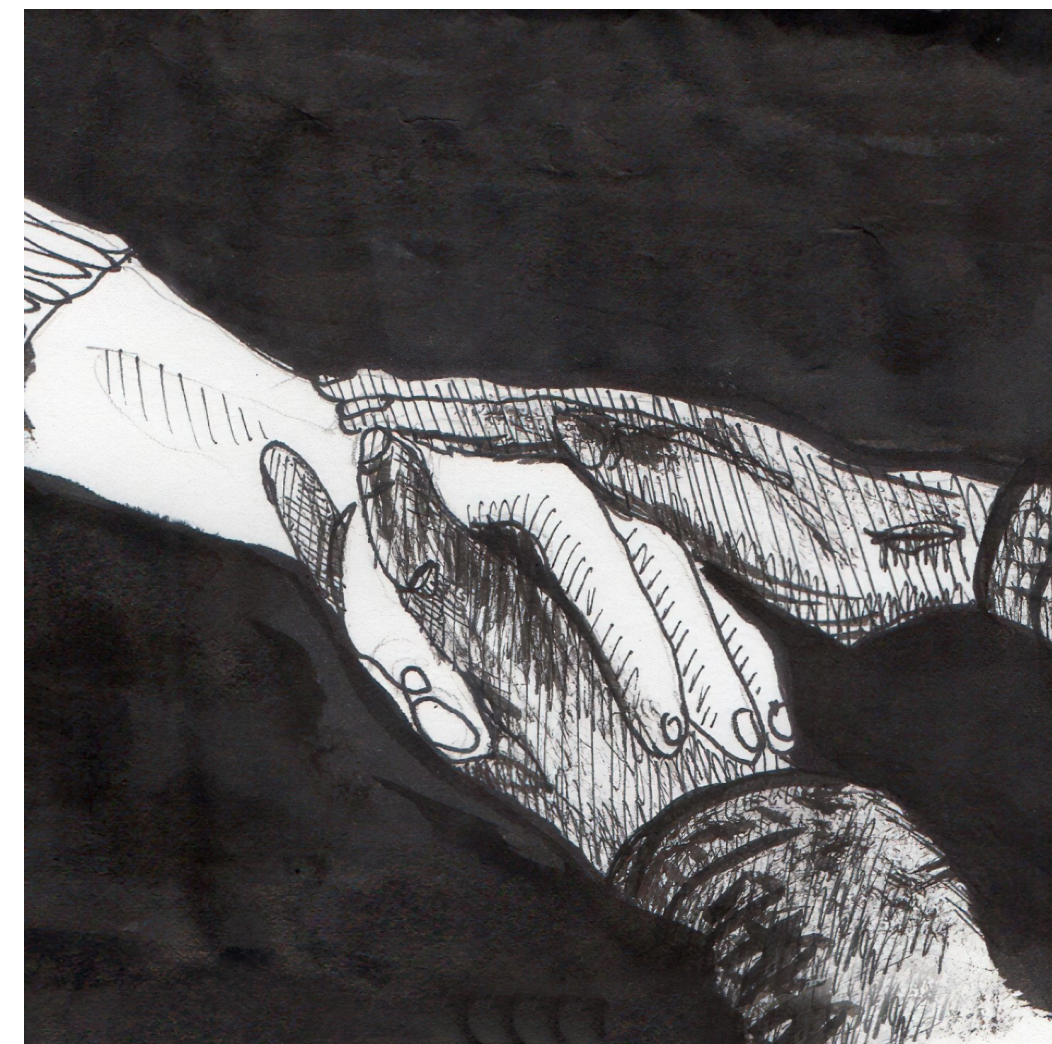
Assisting In Worship Today

Ministers.....Every Member
Liturgist.....Hannah Vaught & Zack Vaught
Ushers.....Fall Picnic!
Sound.....Fall Picnic!
Coffee Plus.....none
Director of Music.....Theresa Jean Kibby
Piano & Organ.....Debby McDonald

First Presbyterian Church

September 17th, 2023

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost



Valente, Liz. Holding Hands, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/act-image-link.pl?RC=57530> [retrieved September 15, 2023]. Original source: Liz Valente, <https://www.instagram.com/donalizvalente/>.

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.