

Order of Public Worship of God

The First Day of October, Two Thousand Twenty-Three

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

“What if belief in the unrelenting love of God combined with trust in with his power to bend history was not a tool to make chains but to break them?”

- Esau McCaulley, “How the Faith That Arose From the Cotton Fields Challenged Me.” *New York Times* (Sept 27, 2023)

“God is always at work, always involved, always pressing forward toward his Kingdom. But the means by which he chooses to pursue that goal may be as astounding as the destruction of a nation or as incomprehensible as the blood dripping from the figure of a man on a cross.”

- Elizabeth Achtemeier, *Nabum-Malachi*

His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding ev’ry hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flow’r.

- William Cowper, “God Moves in a Mysterious Way”



OPENING PRAYER | Book of Common Prayer

Almighty God,
before whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
That we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

† HYMN OF WORSHIP | “Thy Mercy My God”

**Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,
The joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue.
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,
Hath won my affection and bound my soul fast.**

**Without thy sweet mercy, I could not live here,
For sin would reduce me to utter despair;
But through thy free goodness my spirits revive,
And he that first made me still keeps me alive.**

**Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart.
Dissolved by thy goodness, I fall to the ground
And weep to the praise of the mercy I’ve found.**

**Great Father of mercies, thy goodness I own
And the covenant love of thy crucified Son.
All praise to the Spirit whose whisper divine
Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine!**

† CALL TO WORSHIP | Psalm 34:1-6

Fret not yourself because of evildoers;
be not envious of wrongdoers!
For they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.

**Trust in the Lord, and do good;
dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.**

Delight yourself in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord;

trust in him, and he will act.

**He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noonday.**

† HYMNS OF THANKSGIVING | “Who Is Like The Lord Our God”

Our Father, he lifts from the ashes, he raises the poor and the lost;

He seats them to dine at his table, to feast without money or cost.

The lonely he settles in families, the barren, a mother he makes;

O happy the heart of the stranger who’s welcomed by this King of Grace.

Refrain:

Who is like the Lord our God?

Who with glory fills the sky?

But humbles himself with the broken to dwell,

Who is like our God?

Though equal to God in his glory, Christ Jesus became like a slave;

He humbled himself in obedience to Death, and the Cross, and the Grave.

Victorious, he rose to the highest; in glory, the Savior was raised.

His name above all names exalted; the heavens and earth sing his praise. (*refrain*)

O Saints, fix your eyes on the Savior, and count all your righteousness loss;

Be found in his love and his favor, and share in his death on the cross.

That all of his power in victory, imparted to you, may abound;

And sharing the suff’rings of Jesus, you share in his glory and crown. (*refrain*)

“Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah”

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,

pilgrim through this barren land;

I am weak, but thou art mighty,

hold me with thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore.

Bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain,

whence the healing waters flow;

Let the fire and cloudy pillar

lead me all my journey through.

Strong Deliverer, be thou still my Strength and Shield.

Strong Deliverer, be thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,

bid my anxious fears subside;

Death of death, and hell’s destruction,

land me safe on Canaan’s side.

Songs of praises, I will ever give to thee.

Songs of praises, I will ever give to thee.

INVOCATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come,

thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts

as we forgive our debtors,

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

† CORPORATE PROFESSION OF FAITH | The 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.

The third day He rose again from the dead

He ascended into heaven

and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there He will 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.

† DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host:

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

† GREETING

Junior Worship begins for children age four through first grade. Please escort children to the following classrooms.

Preschool - Room 10; Kindergarten and First Grade - Room 9. Children will return to sit with their families

before communion.

READING OF GOD’S WORD | Habakkuk 1:5-11

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON | Series - Habakkuk: The Righteous Shall Live By Faith

Sermon - “The Mystery of God’s Ways”

- Rev. James M. Holland

PRAYER FOR GRACE AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Most merciful God,
We confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name.
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON | from Hebrews 7

It was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens... He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND SHARING OF THE CUP

How do we take communion at St. Patrick?

When directed, please come forward to receive the bread and the cup. The white chalices contain wine; the darker ones on the tables have grape juice. The crackers on the tables are gluten-free. The elder will distribute the bread and then follow with the wine chalice. We will practice intinction, where you will dip the bread in the wine. If you prefer grape juice or need gluten-free bread, indicate your preference when the elder comes to you, then go to the table for your elements. After receiving communion, you will proceed to the outside aisle to return to your seats.

Who comes to the Table?

Communion is open to all baptized believers who have made a profession of faith in Jesus. If you have children who have not made a profession of faith, they are not ready to partake of the elements, but please bring them forward to be blessed by one of our elders. If you are not a believer but want to know more about Jesus, you are invited to come forward and simply bypass the table, letting one of the leaders know that you would like to learn more about what it means to know and belong to Jesus.

† HYMN OF ASSURANCE | “Praise the Savior, Now and Ever”

Praise the Savior, now and ever; praise him, all beneath the skies;
Prostrate lying, suff’ring, dying on the cross, a sacrifice.
Vict’ry gaining, life obtaining, now in glory he doth rise!
Praise the Savior, now and ever: praise him, all beneath the skies.

Man’s work faileth, Christ’s availeth; he is all our righteousness.
He, our Savior, has forever set us free from dire distress.
Through his merit we inherit light and peace and happiness.
Man’s work faileth, Christ’s availeth; he is all our righteousness.

Sin’s bond severed, we’re delivered; Christ has bruised the serpent’s head;
Death no longer is the stronger; Hell itself is captive led.
Christ has risen from death’s prison; O’er the tomb he light has shed.
Sin’s bond severed, we’re delivered; Christ has bruised the serpent’s head.

For his favor, praise forever unto God the Father sing.
Praise the Savior, praise him ever, Son of God, our Lord and King.
Praise the Spirit; through Christ’s merit, he doth us salvation bring.
Praise the Savior, now and ever, praise him all, our Lord and King.

† BENEDICTION | Adapted from a Franciscan Blessing

May God bless you with a restless discomfort,
that you may seek truth and love deep within your heart.
May God bless you with holy anger,
that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom and peace for all.
May God bless you with the gift of tears,
that you may reach out your hand with empathy to comfort the brokenhearted.
May God bless you with enough foolishness to embrace the cross,
that you are able, by God’s grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.
Thanks be to God.

*Scripture tells us to make our needs known to God, and to call others to pray with and for us.
If you would like prayer, elders will be standing in the front of the sanctuary (pulpit side)
immediately following the service to pray with you.*



Upcoming Events and Giving:



Fiscal Fitness

The budget for our fiscal year that began on July 1, 2023 and ends on June 30, 2024 is based on unrestricted giving of \$1.695 million, which represents a 2.6% increase. Below is the latest financial update as of the month ended August 31, 2023:

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-date</u>
Actual unrestricted tithes and offerings	\$ 88,190	\$187,486
Budgeted unrestricted tithes and offerings	106,657	212,850
Favorable (unfavorable)	(\$ 18,467)	(\$ 25,364)

The unrestricted operating cash reserve began the current fiscal year with approximately \$914 thousand. As of August 31, 2023, we have approximately \$2.3 million in total debt and approximately \$110 thousand in cash restricted for our facility. This restricted cash balance will be used to fund any unplanned maintenance needs for our facility.

ST. PATRICK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH EPC



LOVING GOD. LOVING PEOPLE. LOVING LIFE.

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1087, Collierville, TN 38027
Church Location: 710 West White Road, Collierville, TN 38017
Phone: 901-861-3803 **Website:** www.StPatrickPres.com
Facebook.com/stpatrickpres **Twitter:** @StPatrickPres