

## Order of Public Worship of God

The Twenty-Fourth Day of September, Two Thousand Twenty-Three  
*Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

### PRELUDE

“It is easy to be honest before God with our hallelujahs; it is somewhat more difficult to be honest in our hurts; it is nearly impossible to be honest before God in the dark emotions... We must pray who we actually are, not who we think we should be.”

- Eugene Peterson, *Answering God*

“... a complaint is an accusation against God that maligns His character, but a lament is an appeal to God based on confidence in His character.”

- N. T. Wright, [www.ntwrightonline.org](http://www.ntwrightonline.org), *“Five Things to Know About Lament”*

“It is no wonder that the church has intuitively avoided these [prayers of lament]. They lead us into a dangerous acknowledgement of how life really is. They lead us into the presence of God where everything is not polite and civil. They cause us to think unthinkable thoughts and utter unutterable words. Perhaps worst, they lead us away from the comfortable religious claims of ‘modernity’ in which everything is managed and controlled. In our modern experience, but probably also in every successful and affluent culture, it is believed that enough power and knowledge can tame the terror and eliminate the darkness.”

- Walter Brueggemann, *The Message of the Psalms*



### OPENING 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 | “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!**  
**O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!**  
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;  
Join me in glad adoration!

**Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth,**  
**Shelters thee under his wings, yea so gently sustaineth!**  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e’re have been  
Granted in what he ordaineth?

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee,**  
**Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.**  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
If with his love he befriend thee.

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!**  
**All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!**  
Let the amen sound from his people again:  
Gladly, for aye we adore him.

### † 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 | “From the Depths of Woe”

**From the depths of woe I raise to thee the voice of lamentation;**  
 **Lord, turn a gracious ear to me and hear my supplication.**  
**If thou iniquities dost mark, our secret sins and misdeeds dark,**  
 **O who shall stand before thee? O who shall stand before thee?**

**To wash away the crimson stain, grace, grace alone availeth;**  
 **Our works, alas! are all in vain; in much the best life faileth.**  
**No man can glory in thy sight, all must alike confess thy might,**  
 **And live alone by mercy, and live alone by mercy.**

**Therefore my trust is in the Lord, and not in mine own merit;**  
 **On him my soul shall rest, his Word upholds my fainting spirit.**  
**His promised mercy is my fort, my comfort, and my sweet support;**  
 **I wait for it with patience, I wait for it with patience.**

**What though I wait the livelong night, and till the dawn appeareth,**  
 **My heart still trusteth in his might; it doubteth not nor feareth:**  
 **Do thus, O ye of Israel’s seed, ye of the Spirit born indeed;**  
 **And wait till God appeareth, and wait till God appeareth.**

**Though great our sins and sore our woes, his grace much more aboundeth;**  
 **His helping love no limit knows, our utmost need it soundeth.**  
**Our Shepherd good and true is he, who will at last his Israel free.**  
 **From all their sin and sorrow, from all their sin and sorrow.**

“Our Help and Strength”  
How long, O Lord, will you delay?  
Our grief and sorrow lend their sound.  
How long until Your arm will save,  
As justice withers on the ground?  
Look up and be amazed:  
Before our Savior heard our cries  
His plan was blossoming  
To make his truth and justice rise  
To make his truth and justice rise

O Holy One, eternal God  
Will You not hear, will You not see?  
We watch and wait, we make our plea  
We place our hope in You to speak  
Yet shall we hope and trust  
Come saturate, make Your way known  
Make faith our way of life  
And silence us before your throne  
And silence us before your throne

**Though trees are bare and vines don't bloom,**  
 **Though earth may shake and violence strike,**  
 **In wrath, remember mercy sweet;**  
 **Come save Your children from our plight**  
 **O God, come fill the earth**  
 **That all may know Your majesty**  
 **And we'll take joy in You**  
 **Our help and strength You'll ever be**  
 **Our help and strength You'll ever be**

### 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 1:1-4

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

Sermon - "The Silence of Heaven"

- 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 | "How Firm a Foundation"

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,

Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!

What more can he say than to you he hath said,

You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,

For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;

I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,

Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,

The rivers of grief shall not thee overflow

For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,

And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress."

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,

My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;

The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design

Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine."

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,

I will not, I will not desert to his foes;

That soul, though all hell should endeavor to break,

I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

† 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:

	Month	Year-to-date
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.

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ST. PATRICK  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH EPC



LOVING GOD. LOVING PEOPLE. LOVING LIFE.