

ST. STEPHEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Service for The Lord's Day

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 | 11:00 AM

Bold text: All | Regular text: Leader | †: *Please stand in body or spirit.*

ENTERING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PRELUDE: *Jubilation* (2015)

Jason D. Payne (b. 1980)

PEAL OF THE TOWER BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The word of God came to Jonah. The Word of God comes to us:

Go.

Despite your fears,

Speak the truth of God.

Love your neighbor and you enemy;

Forgive as you have been forgiven.

Receive grace upon grace,

overflowing from the fullness of God.

†HYMN: 619 *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*

LAUDA ANIMA

OPENING PRAYER

Let us join together in our opening prayer:

Providing God, you call your people to prayer and praise in many ways. This day, you bring us together just as you called the people of Israel to gather manna in the desert to eat and sustain life. As we worship, may your Holy Spirit provide us the nutrients we need to remain connected to you. Food that endures – faith, hope, and love. We pray in the name of the Bread of Life, Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

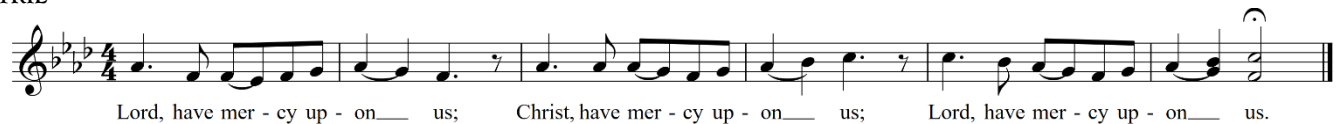
PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*kneeling or bowing down*)

Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children. But division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in relationships, and be transformed through your steadfast love.

(*Moment of silent confession.*)

We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

KYRIE



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, by God's grace and redemption we have been claimed and freed, and this truth is made visible in our baptism.

Sometimes we respond to God's provision with ingratitude and jealousy. Still, God's love for us abounds.

We have confessed our sins and we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please stand and greet your neighbors with a sign of Christ's peace and love.

†GLORIA PATRI 580

SCOTTISH

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.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Bruce Campbell

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON: Exodus 16:2-15

Pew Bible, OT, p. 62

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON: Jonah 3:10-4:11

Pew Bible, OT, pg. 861

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:1-11

Setting: Thomas Norris

All children in 5th grade and younger are invited into the center of the sanctuary to surround the Gospeler during the Gospel Processional Hymn. Afterward, the children will be led out of the sanctuary to the Chapel for Godly Play, and will return during the hymn that follows the sermon.

†GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 36 *For the Fruit of All Creation*

1-2 | 3

AR HYD Y NOS

†A MOMENT WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

†GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 20:1-16

Pew Bible, NT, p. 21

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: "Grumpy Gratitude"

The Rev. Angie Mabry, *Interim Pastor*

SILENT REFLECTION:

Dr. Michael Chan writes, "Spitefully hurling a standard confessional formula in God's face, Jonah tells God that he would rather die than live to see the Assyrians receive God's mercy. So deep was Jonah's anger toward Israel's imperial oppressors."

To what degree do we see ourselves in Jonah with how we feel towards those who have wronged us?

†HYMN: 69 *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*

HERE I AM

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – (FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH [U.S.A])

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image..., of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, Like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

COMMISSIONING OF THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all of humankind.

The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

(Prayer continues)

Do you, members of the St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, confirm the call of God to this Pastor Nominating Committee, our siblings in Christ, as they search for our next pastor in the service of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Will you support and encourage them in this ministry with your prayers and respect for confidentiality?

We will.

COMMISSIONING PRAYER AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

All who have served as an Elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are invited to come forward and lay hands upon the PNC members for this prayer.

CHARGE

BLESSING

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* (1948)

Carl F. Mueller (1892-1982)

Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice, Before His throne rejoice;

Praise is His gracious choice; Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high; Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!

He is our guide and friend; To us He'll condescend;

His love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again; Alleluia! Amen!

Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore His goodness we'll adore,

Singing for evermore, Alleluia! Amen!

†DOXOLOGY 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray together.

Holy God, bless these gifts for your good use. May these tokens of our gratitude be of service in blessing the poor, feeding the hungry, and clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive. We pray you would use our financial, physical, and creative offerings to further Christ's mission and ministry. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD (*kneeling or bowing down*)

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.

DEPARTING IN GOD'S GRACE

†HYMN: 269 *Lead On, O King Eternal!*

LANCASHIRE

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

PEAL OF THE TOWER BELLS

POSTLUDE: *Postlude on LANCASHIRE* (2015)

Jason D. Payne



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