

# ST. STEPHEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Service for The Lord's Day

25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 19, 2023 | 11:00 AM

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

## ENTERING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PRELUDE: *Simple Gifts* (1998)

J. Wayne Kerr (b. 1958)

PEAL OF THE TOWER BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hold fast to your hope without wavering, for God who has promised is faithful.

**Let us worship the Lord.**

†HYMN: 401 *Here in This Place!*

GATHER US IN

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Surely God is our salvation; trust in the Lord and be not afraid.

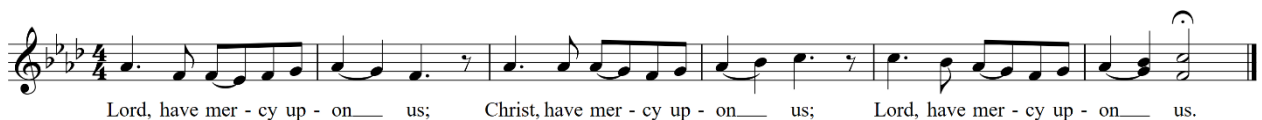
**Ever-living God, before the earth was formed and even after it shall cease to be, you are God. Break into our short span of life and show us how to live with you, that we may serve your Kingdom in all we do; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

GENERAL CONFESSION OF SIN (*kneeling or bowing down*)

For we are saved by grace through faith, and not by works, lest any of us should boast. Affirming this good news, we confess our sins assured of God's forgiveness and renewal of life

**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 and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name...**(*Silent confession*)

KYRIE



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear, believe and proclaim the Good News of the Gospel. Who is in a position to condemn?

**Only Christ; and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.**

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life is gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Please stand and greet your neighbors as a sign of Christ's love, saying "The peace of Christ be with you."

†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

Anne Bourland

LESSON FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: Exodus 1:15-16; 2:1-10

Pew Bible, OT, p. 49

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 90:1-12

Setting by John E. Cantrell

LESSON FROM THE EPISTLES: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Pew Bible, NT, p. 166

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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*All children in 5<sup>th</sup> 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.*

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†GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 719 *Come, Labor On*

1-2 | 3-4

ORA LABORA

†GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 25:14-30

Pew Bible, NT, p. 28

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: *The Parable of the One-Talent-Man*

The Rev. Dr. Warner M. Bailey, *Theologian-in-Residence*

SILENT REFLECTION

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN: *'Tis the Gift to Be Simple*

(On back page – Sing twice)

SIMPLE GIFTS

†AFFIRMATION 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 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 the life everlasting. Amen.

MINUTE FOR MISSION: *Room in the Inn*

Mike Tyson

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

**OFFERTORY: *I Will Lift Mine Eyes* (2013)**

Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

*I will lift mine eyes unto the hills; from whence comes my help?  
My help comes from the Lord, maker of heaven and earth.  
God will not let you fall; God, who watches over your life,  
will not slumber, shall neither slumber nor sleep.*

*Our God watches over you; our God grants you shade at your right hand.  
The sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.  
The Lord will keep you from all evil; God will watch over your soul.  
The Lord will preserve your coming and going from now and forever more.*

**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.**

**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: 346** *For the Healing of the Nations*

ST. THOMAS (WADE)

†**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**PEAL OF THE TOWER BELLS**

**POSTLUDE: *Now Thank We All Our God* (1959)**

Virgil Fox (1912–1980)

The flowers today are given to the Glory of God by Peggy Harwood in honor of her daughters  
and all church family with November birthdays.



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## 'Tis the Gift to Be Simple



The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Tis the Gift to Be Simple". It consists of six staves of music in a single system, all written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/2 time signature. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The music is a simple, melodic line with a clear rhythmic pattern. The lyrics are: "'Tis the gift to be sim-ple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be; And when we find our - selves in the place just right, 'Twill be in the val - ley of love and de-light. When true sim-plic-i-ty is gained, To bow and to bend we shan't be a-shamed; To turn, turn, will be our de-light, Till by turn-ing, turn-ing we come round right.

Text: Joseph Brackett, Jr., 1797-1882

Tune: SIMPLE GIFTS, 13 11 11 11 with refrain; Joseph Brackett, Jr., 1797-1882; acc. Margaret W. Mealy, b.1922, © 1984