16th Sunday after Pentecost **September 17, 2023**

Gathering God invites us to enter His presence

Prelude Hosanna! Brown & Baloche

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (Time for Silent Preparation)

Call to Worship (Responsively)

Hob Pusev

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us and we are his;

we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

-Psalm 100, NIV

Invocation

Hob Pusev

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and in truth through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

₹ Hvmn 6

Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Confessing God invites us to be honest with Him

Call to Confession

Hob Pusey

"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet,

they shall be as white as snow;

though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

—Isaiah 1:18. NIV

Prayer of Confession (Responsively)

Hob Pusey

God of everlasting love,
we confess that we have been unfaithful
to our covenant with you and with one another.
We have worshiped other gods: money, power, greed, and convenience.
We have served our own self-interest
instead of serving only you and your people.
We have not loved our neighbor as you have commanded,
nor have we rightly loved ourselves.
Forgive us, gracious God,
and bring us back into the fullness
of our covenant with you and one another.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Hob Pusey

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

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. A-men, A-men.

New Members (John Steiginga, Adelaide Fieo, Kayla Terry, Allison Terry)

Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God and without hope for your salvation except in His sovereign mercy? **I do.**

Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Savior of sinners, and do you receive and depend upon Him alone for your salvation as He is offered in the gospel? **I do.**

Do you now promise and resolve, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ? **I do.**

Do you promise to serve Christ in His Church by supporting and participating with this congregation in its service of God and its ministry to others to the best of your ability? **I do.**

Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and to the spiritual oversight of this Church Session, and do you promise to promote the unity, purity and peace of the Church? **I do.**

Welcome

Offering Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation With thankfulness we give in gratitude and joy.

With prayerfulness we give in sacrifice and love. With hopefulness we give in commitment to God.

Offering

Offertory As the Deer by Nystrom Robin Miller

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. A-men.

Prayer of Dedication

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions—signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us—Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Praise Song Before The Throne of God Above

Verse 1
Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is Love

Who ever lives and pleads for me My name is graven on His hands My name is written on His heart I know that while in heav'n He stands No tongue can bid me thence depart No tongue can bid me thence depart

Verse 2
When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin
Because the sinless Saviour died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me
To look on Him and pardon me

Verse 3
Behold Him there the risen Lamb
My perfect spotless righteousness
The great unchangeable I Am
The King of glory and of grace
One with Himself I cannot die
My soul is purchased with His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Saviour and my God
With Christ my Saviour and my God

<u>Proclaiming</u> God speaks to us through His Word

Children's Sermon Paul is Transformed Dennis Lesher

Scripture Reading Galatians 1:11-24

¹¹ For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel preached by me is not of human origin. ¹² For I did not receive it from a human source and I was not taught it, but it came by a revelation of Jesus Christ.

¹³ For you have heard about my former way of life in Judaism: I intensely persecuted God's church and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴ I advanced in Judaism beyond many contemporaries among my people, because I was extremely zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. ¹⁵ But when God, who from my mother's womb set me apart and called me by his grace, was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal his Son in me, so that I could preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone. ¹⁷ I did not go up to Jerusalem to those who had become apostles before me; instead I went to Arabia and came back to Damascus.

¹⁸ Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to get to know Cephas, and I stayed with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ But I didn't see any of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. ²⁰ I declare in the sight of God: I am not lying in what I write to you.

²¹ Afterward, I went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²² I remained personally unknown to the Judean churches that are in Christ. ²³ They simply kept hearing, "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴ And they glorified God because of me.

Sermon "Who is Paul?" Rev. Tim Latham

Hymn 234 Crown Him with Many Crowns

Responding We respond to God's Word

Profession of Faith (Nicene Creed)

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit. the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,

and to life in the world to come. Amen.

<u>Commissioning</u> God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

Praise Song H

His Mercy is More

What love could remember no wrongs we have done? Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum. Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore, Our sins, they are many; His mercy is more.

Chorus

Praise the Lord, His mercy is more. Stronger than darkness, new ev'ry morn. Our sins, they are many; His mercy is more. Praise the mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam? What Father, so tender, is calling us home? He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor. Our sins, they are many; His mercy is more. Chorus

What riches of kindness He lavished on us. His blood was the payment; His life was the cost. We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford. Our sins they are many: His mercy is more. Chorus

Benediction & Blessing

Postlude

Today's prayer partners are Bernie Huges, Jim Fox

Congregational Meeting