17th Sunday after Pentecost September 24, 2023

Gathering God invites us to enter His presence

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (Time for Silent Preparation)

Call to Worship (Responsively)

Celia Weber

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

And who shall stand in his holy place?

Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

-Psalm 24:1-4, NRSV

Invocation

Celia Weber

Loving God, we have gathered to meet you.
We have come to listen to you,
to seek you, to worship you.
You are the beginning of all things,
the life of all things; you knew us before we were born.
In you we become; in you we live.
Loving God, you are here and everywhere,
around us and within us; you know our inmost thoughts.
In you we hope; in you we live.
You are the source of serenity,
giving peace that is beyond our understanding.
In you we are still; in you we live.
Loving God, we live in you; we worship you.
Loving God, you live in us; we worship you. Amen.

Praise Song Hosanna (Praise is Rising)

Verse 1
Praise is rising; eyes are turning to You;
We turn to You.
Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for You;
We long for You.

Pre-Chorus

'Cause when we see You, we find strength to find the day. In Your presence all our fears are washed away, Washed away.

Chorus

Hosanna, Hosanna, You are the God who saves us, Worthy of all our praises. Hosanna, Hosanna, Come have Your way among us, We welcome You here, Lord Jesus.

Verse 2
Hear the sound of hearts turning to You,
We turn to You.
In Your Kingdom, broken lives are made new;
You make us new.

Pre-Chorus Chorus Pre-Chorus Chorus Tag – Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!

Confessing God invites us to be honest with Him

Call to Confession

Celia Weber

We know that nothing is able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Let us in freedom confess the wrong we have done.

—based on Romans 8:39

Prayer of Confession (Responsively)

Celia Weber

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord

more than those who watch for the morning,

more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

and with him is great power to redeem.

It is he who will redeem Israel

from all its iniquities.

—Psalm 130, NRSV

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Celia Weber

I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me. – Ieremiah 33:8, NRSV

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.

Ordination & Installation of Church Officers

Introductions

Donna Jackman, Doreen Newby, Beth Hartenstein - Deacons Roy Adler, Dennis Lesher - Elders Greg Maurer, John Keeler, Bill Mecaughey - Trustees

(Please remain in your pew & stand when your name is read)

Questions to Donna Jackman & Beth Hartenstein on being ordained as Deacons

Do you reaffirm your faith in Jesus Christ as your own personal Lord and Savior? Do you?

Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the Word of God, totally trustworthy, fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, the supreme, final, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice? Do you?

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Westminster Confession of faith and the catechisms of this church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures? Do you?

Do you promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with the system of doctrine as taught in the scriptures and as contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church you will on your own initiative make known to your Church Session the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow? Do you?

Do you affirm and adopt the Essentials of our Faith without exception? Do you?

Do you promise to subscribe to the government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church? Do you?

Do you promise to be subject to your fellow officers in the Lord? Do you?

Installation Questions to Greg Maurer, John Keeler, and Bill Mecaughey on being installed as Trustees; to Roy Adler and Dennis Lesher on being installed as Ruling Elders; and to Donna Jackman, Doreen Newby and Beth Hartenstein on being installed as Deacons.

To Roy, Dennis, and Doreen Do you now reaffirm the vows you took upon your Ordination and do you recommit yourself to them in discharge of your obligation? Do you?

To all officers:

Have you been induced, as far as you know your own heart, to Accept this office from love of God and sincere desire to promote His glory in the Gospel of His Son? Have you?

Do you promise to be zealous and faithful in promoting the truths of the Gospel and the purity and peace of the church, whatever persecution or opposition may arise to you on that account? Do you?

Will you seek to be faithful and diligent in the exercise of all your Duties as an officer, whether personal or relative, private or public; and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your manner of life, and to walk with exemplary piety before this congregation of which God will make you an officer? Will you?

Are you now willing to take responsibility in the life of this Congregation respectively as a Trustee, Elder, or Deacon and will you seek to discharge your duties, relying upon the grace of God, in such a way that the entire Church of Jesus Christ will be blessed? Will you?

Question to the Congregation

Do you, the members of this congregation, receive these persons as Ruling Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and do you continue your promise to yield them and all your officers all that honor, encouragement, and obedience in the Lord to which the ordination or installation as an officer entitles them, according to the word of God and the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church? Do you?

Prayer of Ordination

"Sovereign Lord, we ask You now that You anoint these Your Servants for the work that You are calling them to do. Give them the full measure of your Spirit so that they may become fully equipped. Give them the wisdom to lean on You and Your Word for advice. Give them the courage to face the trials that will come their way. May Your presence abide, Your grace sustain and Your love keep them now and forever. Amen

Declaration

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

Invitation The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,

the world, and those who live in it.

Offering

Offertory Christ is All in All by Getty, Hill, Shive

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ve heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.

Prayer of Dedication (Responsively)

Blessed are you, God of all creation; through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God forever. Amen.

¶ Hymn 276 Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

Proclaiming God speaks to us through His Word

Children's Sermon Building Bridges Susan Obenschain

Scripture Reading Galatians 2:1-10

2 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also. 2 I went up according to a revelation and presented to them the gospel I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those recognized as leaders. I wanted to be sure I was not running, and had not been running, in vain. ³ But not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek. ⁴ This matter arose because some false brothers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus in order to enslave us. ⁵ But we did not give up and submit to these people for even a moment, so that the truth of the gospel would be preserved for you.

⁶ Now from those recognized as important (what they once were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism)—they added nothing to me. ⁷ On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel for the uncircumcised, just as Peter was for the circumcised, ⁸ since the one at work in Peter for an apostleship to the circumcised was also at work in me for the Gentiles. ⁹ When James, Cephas, and John—those recognized as pillars—acknowledged the grace that had been given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to me and Barnabas, agreeing that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. ¹⁰ They asked only that we would remember the poor, which I had made every effort to do.

Sermon

"Conflict in the Early Church" Rev. Tim Latham

Praise Song

Revelation Song

Verse 1
Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain
Holy holy is He
Sing a new song to Him Who sits on
Heaven's mercy seat

Chorus
Holy holy holy
Is the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come
With all creation I sing
Praise to the King of kings
You are my ev'rything
And I will adore You

Verse 2 Clothed in rainbows of living color Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder Blessing and honor strength and glory And power be to You the only wise King Chorus

Verse 3
Filled with wonder awestruck wonder
At the mention of Your name
Jesus Your name is power breath and living water
Such a marv'lous mystery yeah
Chorus

Responding We respond to God's Word

Profession of Faith

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of deatheven death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess

to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! -from Philippians 2:5-11, NRSV

Prayers of the People

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

Hymn 10 O Worship the King

Benediction & Blessing

Postlude

Today's prayer partners are Barb Finch, Dan Obenschain