

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost – August 20, 2023

Responsive Call to Worship

Let the people praise God;

Let all the peoples praise the Lord!

Let the nations be glad and sing with joy,

For God guide us all with justice and equity.

Let the people praise God, for how we have been blessed;

Come let us worship and offer all honour and praise.

Hymn 39 God of mercy, God of grace

**1. God of mercy, God of grace,
show the brightness of your face.**

**Shine upon us, Saviour, shine;
fill your world with light divine,
and your saving health extend
unto earth's remotest end.**

**2. Let the people praise you, Lord;
be by all that live adored.**

**Let the nations shout and sing
glory to their gracious King;
at your feet their tribute pay,
and your holy will obey.**

**3. Let the people praise you, Lord;
earth shall then its fruits afford.**

**Unto us your blessing give;
we to you devoted live,
all below and all above,
one in joy and light and love.**

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Hymn 481 Blest be the tie that binds

**1. Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.**

**2. Before our Maker's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;**

**our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.**

**3. We share each other's woes,
each other's burdens bear,
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.**

**4. When we asunder part,
it gives us keenest pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.**

**5. This glorious hope revives
our courage on the way;
in perfect friendship we shall live
in God's eternal day.**

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as you have taught us. Forgive us those times we have not welcomed others into our community; and those times we have avoided others because something about them made us uncomfortable. Forgive us the ways we have judged people unfairly. Reveal to us our own prejudices, and show us how to see your goodness in those who seem different from us.

- silent confession -

The Lord's Prayer (Debts/Debtors)

**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, the power, and the glory. For ever
and ever. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (minister)

Hymn 55 God moves in a mysterious way

**1. God moves in a mysterious way
his wonders to perform;**

**he plants his footsteps in the sea,
and rides upon the storm.**

**2. Deep in unfathomable mines
of never-failing skill
he treasures up his bright designs,
and works his sovereign will.**

**3. Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
the clouds ye so much dread
are big with mercy, and shall break
in blessings on your head.**

**4. Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
but trust him for his grace;
behind a frowning providence
he hides a smiling face.**

**5. His purposes will ripen fast,
unfolding every hour;
the bud may have a bitter taste,
but sweet will be the flower.**

**6. Blind unbelief is sure to err,
and scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter,
and he will make it plain.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 133 p. 579 NT & Psalms

¹How wonderful and pleasant it is
when brothers live together in harmony!

²**For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil
that was poured over Aaron's head,
that ran down his beard
and onto the border of his robe.**

³**Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount Hermon
that falls on the mountains of Zion.**

**And there the Lord has pronounced his blessing,
even life everlasting.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 p. 273 NT & Psalms

Matthew 15:10-28 p. 30 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Who's in and who's out

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Hymn 760 Where cross the crowded ways of life

**1. Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife,
we hear your voice, O Son of Man.**

**2. In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds, dark with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.**

**3. From tender childhood's helplessness,
from woman's grief, man's burdened toil,
from famished souls, from sorrow's stress,
your heart has never known recoil.**

**4. The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long these multitudes to view
the sweet compassion of your face.**

**5. O Saviour, from the mountain side,
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide,
oh tread the city's streets again;**

**6. Till human hearts shall learn your love,
and follow where your feet have trod;
till glorious from your heaven above,
shall come the city of our God.**

Offering Announcement

Offering & Offertory

***Doxology 830 Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;**

**praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Prayer of Dedication (congregation)

O God, we place our hope and trust in your loving kindness. Because we want to praise you with more than just words, we offer our gifts to support Christ's mission in the world. Bless these gifts and use our energy for your good purposes, so that the world will know your loving kindness. Amen.

Hymn 647 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

**1. Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee,
yet possessing every blessing
if our God our guide shall be.**

**2. Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary
through the desert thou didst go.**

**3. Spirit of our God descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy;
thus provided, pardoned, guided
nothing can our peace destroy.**

Choral Blessing

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will be with you each hour of every day.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Piano Postlude