



Westminster Presbyterian Church
A Service for the Worship of God
Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 30, 2020

We Gather in God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Cindy Key

Grace and peace to you from God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Interlude

***Opening Prayer**

***Hymn #341**

“Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine”

ASSURANCE

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. [Refrain]

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

***Response of Praise**

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.***

***Passing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

Colossians 1:9-20

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 16:21-28

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Caroline V. Dennis

“Growing in Faith: Two Ways of Learning”

Part 2: Getting it Wrong

*But he turned and said to Peter,
“Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me;
for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”
Matthew 16:23*

We Respond to God’s Word

Call to Offering

Hymn #419

“How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

REPTON

How clear is our vocation, Lord, When once we heed Your call:
To live according to Your word, And daily learn, refreshed, restored,
That You are Lord of all And will not let us fall.

But if forgetful, we should find Your yoke is hard to bear,
If worldly pressures fray the mind And love itself cannot unwind
Its tangled skein of care: Our inward life repair.

We mark Your saints, how they became In hindrances more sure,
Whose joyful virtues put to shame The casual way we wear Your name,
And by our faults obscure Your power to cleanse and cure.

In what You give us, Lord, to do, Together or alone,
In old routines or ventures new, May we not cease to look to You—
The cross You hung upon— All you endeavored done.

***Affirmation of Faith**

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.

Prayers of the People and 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.

***Hymn #536**

“Lord, Make Us More Holy”

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

Lord, make us more holy; Lord, make us more holy;
Lord, make us more holy, until we meet again:
Holy, holy, holy, until we meet again.

Lord, make us more faithful; Lord, make us more faithful;
Lord, make us more faithful, until we meet again:
faithful, faithful, faithful, until we meet again.

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Organist: Larry Dozier

Vocalist: Nickie Murphy