

~Gathering the Family of God~

The Peal of the Church Bell

Prelude

Melodia Espressivo

Sibelius

Welcome and Call to Worship

One: God has forgiven us and drawn us close,
reconciling us through Jesus Christ,
who has lavished upon us the fullness of the blessed Holy Spirit.

All: With glad and grateful hearts, praise the Lord!

One: Lord Jesus, Son of God, your blessings know no boundaries
that faith cannot cross. Strengthen us to trust in your mercy,
reach out for your healing, and receive your reconciliation.

All: Amen.

*Hymn

Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

#299

*Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins without fear to the One who yearns to embrace us, forgive us, protect us, and bless us.

*Confession of Sin (unison)

Have mercy on us, Lord Jesus; we are tormented! Our lives have been disrupted by the devil and by our own devilish desires and evil exploits. We are dismayed at your presence, anguished by the awful fallout of our own failures. We cannot take back what we have said, or undo what we have done, or atone for the agony we have caused. We are haunted by the past, uncomfortable with the present, and fearful of the future. We shrink away from your gaze as strangers outside your circle of blessing. Yet the faith you have planted in us reaches out for your favor, returns to your presence, and hungers for your mercy.

***Silent Confession**

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Our God kisses us with kindness, forgiving our sins, preserving our lives, and restoring our souls through the abundant provision of our Lord Jesus Christ. Receive now that for which faith has hungered: you are forgiven and healed in the name of Jesus the Christ.

*Gloria Patri

581

**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, Amen.**

Tune: Gloria Patri, Henry W. Greatorex, 1851, Public Domain

Heifer Project - Recognition of Birthdays and Anniversaries

A Song of Blessing

**All: May joy and peace surround you, contentment at your door,
And happiness be with you now, God bless you evermore.**

(Adapted from An Irish Blessing, Tune: Amazing Grace)

~Hearing God's Word~

Prayer for Illumination

Merciful Savior, your suffering has saved our lives, secured our future, and restored us to relationship with God. Remove the shame and fear that cause us to cower in your presence. By the power of your Spirit, open our eyes and hearts to your Word of love, mercy, healing, and blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading

One: The Word of the Lord.

Genesis 45:1-15

page 42

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

One: The Word of the Lord

Psalm 133

page 575

All: Thanks be to God.

Epistle

One: The Word of the Lord

Romans 11:1-2a; 29-32

page 160

All: Thanks be to God.

Special Music

Wonderful Words of Life

Philip P. Bliss

Gospel

One: The Word of the Lord.

Matthew 15:21-28

page 17

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

Changing God's Mind

Rev. Terry Epling

*Affirmation of Faith (unison)

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.

[The Apostles Creed]

*Hymn

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

#432

~Responding to God's Word~

Invitation to Give

Christ has provided for us from his own table of blessings. Blessings and abundance overflow! Let us offer our gifts together from the bounty God has given.

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings & Friendship Pad

Please take a moment to sign your name and contact information in the pew pad.

Offertory *In Every Time I'll Always Bless the Lord* John Wainwright

***Doxology** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* #606
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Amen.

*** Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

Gracious Lord, you have given us more mercy than we could imagine and more blessings than we deserve. Receive now these gifts as tokens of our gratitude to you, that your mercy may be multiplied and your blessings abound to embrace all those in need. Amen.

Life in Our Church Community

Pastoral Prayer and 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.

*** Closing Hymn** *Amazing Grace* #649

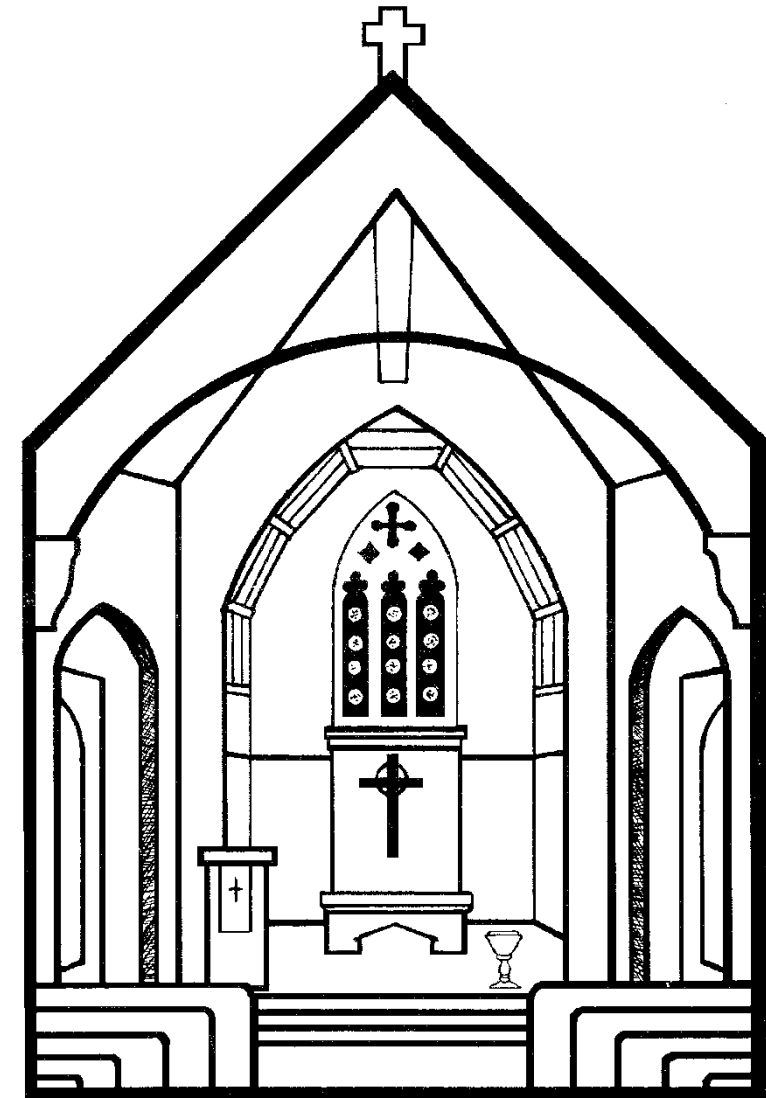
***Benediction**

The call of God is irrevocable. God has gifted you with forgiveness and graced you with reconciliation. Go now and share God's gifts with the distressed and estranged. Christ has called you close to him and healed you from torment. Go now and call others to receive Christ's mercy and healing.

***Postlude** *Pastorale* Domenico Zipoli

First Presbyterian Church

235 Broadway, Cape Girardeau, Missouri



*Please stand, if you are able.

Electronic aid for the hearing impaired is available from the usher.