

## ~Gathering the Family of God~

## The Peal of the Church Bell

## Prelude

*Lamb of God, We Fall Before Thee*

Henry Markworth

## Welcome and Call to Worship

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Beloved of God, the winter is past, the flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come.

**All: Let us lift our voices in praise to our Creator.**

One: Author of life, you cast your glory all around us; you invade our sleep; you reveal yourself in ancient stories and the give-and-take of common life. By the power of your Spirit, come to us now, for you have called us to this place. We pray in the name of Jesus, our hope and our confidence. Amen.

## \*Hymn

*Come Christians, Join to Sing*

#267

## \*Call to Confession

Jesus said: Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

## \*Confession of Sin (unison)

Lord, we marvel at the thought of a well-fitted yoke, a burden scaled to match our frames; we do not know how to rest in the promise of such labor.

Some of us are weary from unceasing responsibility; others find no welcome in the marketplace. We confound your vision for our common life. Forgive our blind striving, our stifled concern, the judgments we cast on others. Make yourself known to us in the silence. Shape your children for the commonwealth of your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## \*Silent Confession

## \*Assurance of Forgiveness

Sisters and brothers, hear this good news: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

I declare to you now, in the name of Jesus Christ, that your sin is forgiven. You have been freed for service in his name.

## \*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

## ~Hearing God's Word~

## Prayer for Illumination

Merciful God, in this moment of stillness, wash us clean of our presumptions.

Receive us as your weary children. Then, by the power of your Spirit, bless us with a word that revives, for we pray in the name of Jesus, your living Word. Amen.

## First Reading

Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67

page 20

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Wisdom

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

page 623

One: The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

Romans 7:15-25a

page 157

One: The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Special Music

*I'm Forever Grateful*

Mark Altrogge

## Gospel

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

page 11

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Message

Rev. Miriam Foltz

## \*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

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

#366

## ~Responding to God's Word~

## Invitation to Give

When Rebekah's family asked whether she would yield her life to God's purposes, she answered, "I will." Every day each of us is challenged by that same question. May the offerings we now bring symbolize our yielding to God.

## Giving of our Tithes and Offerings & Friendship Pad

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

### Offertory

*The Steadfast Love of the Lord*

Edith McNeil

### \*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 Creator, you have laced our lives with blessing. As we present these offerings, we also tender our lives. Make us your bold and faithful people, willing to go forward in faith wherever you would lead us, that we might be a comfort in the world. We pray in the name of Jesus, by the gift of your empowering Spirit. 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

*Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

#744

### \*Benediction

### \*Postlude

*O Blessed Holy Trinity*

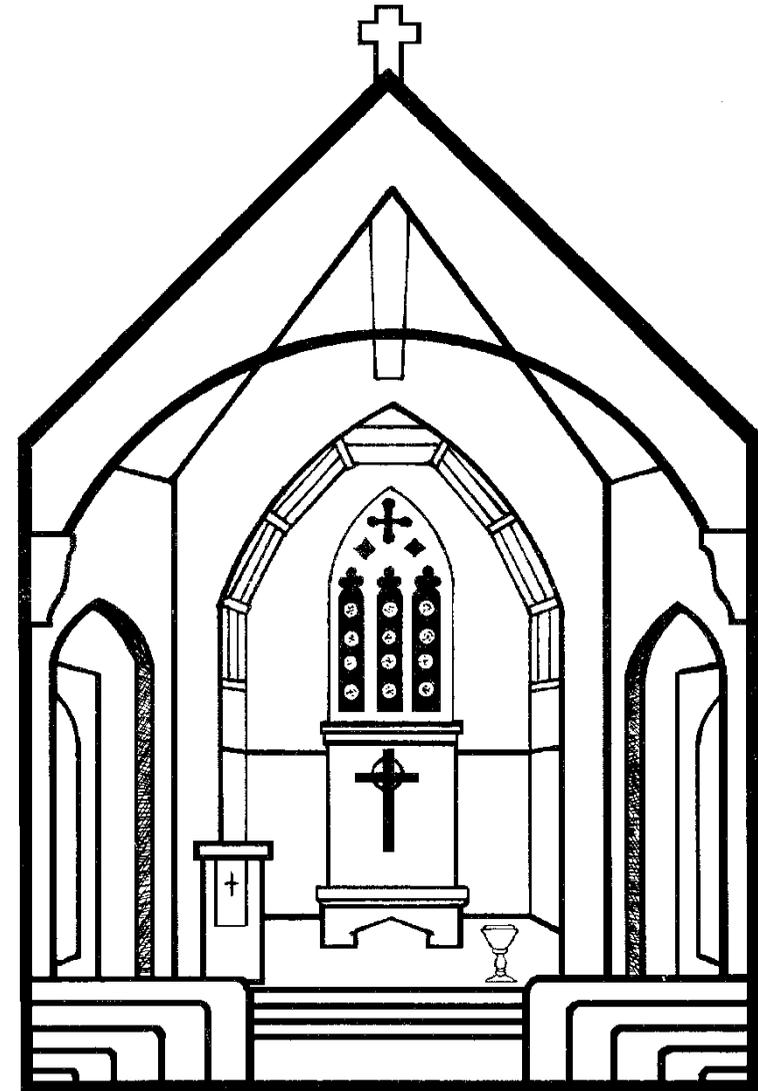
Jan Bender

\*Please stand, if you are able.

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

# First Presbyterian Church

235 Broadway, Cape Girardeau, Missouri



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI