

~Gathering the Family of God~

The Peal of the Church Bell

Prelude *Prelude* G.F. Handel

Welcome and Call to Worship

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

All: When we welcome one another we welcome Jesus.

One: I was hungry and you gave me to eat.

All: When we serve one another we serve Jesus.

One: Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find.

All: We will share the love we've been shown through our actions of service and kindness.

*Hymn *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* #39

*Call to Confession

Our ancestors exchanged the glory of God for the image of a golden calf. They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things. While our means are different, our compulsions are the same. Let us confess our brokenness before God and one another.

*Confession of Sin (unison)

Holy God, you are the Lord our God, who brought us out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. And yet our trust in you is fragile, easily crushed by our bent toward indifference; the dismissal of your faithfulness as a result of our forgetfulness. Our trust is fragile, easily broken by the slightest pause; an answer to prayer not instantly given, a request for peace not immediately felt. Our trust is fragile, easily displaced by gods of our own making; the god of self-sufficiency, chased at any cost, the god of illusion, pursued in any form. Lord, have mercy on us and turn our hearts toward you. Amen.

***Silent Confession**

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved, hear the good news: Jesus Christ came to stand in the breach to reconcile us to God. Because of his mercy we are forgiven and freed!

*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

Life in Our Church Community
Mission Moment – Safe House for Women

~Hearing God's Word~

Prayer for Illumination

Holy Spirit of God, shine your light upon this Word and into our hearts that we may be enlightened with fresh understanding and emboldened to acts of service. Amen.

Old Testament Micah 6:1-9a page 866

Psalm Psalm 106:1-6; 19-23 page 557

Epistle Philippians 4:1-9 page 198

One: The Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God.**

Choral Anthem *Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me*

Gospel Matthew 25:31-40 page 29

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Message *Risk-Taking Mission and Service* 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 *Together We Serve* #767

~Responding to God's Word~

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)

Invitation to Give

Beloved, do not worry about anything, but in everything let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. In the assurance of this promise, let us confidently offer ourselves to God, knowing that God has already provided all that we need.

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings & Friendship Pad

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

Offertory *Abendlied* Schumann

***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)

Creator God, you are our provider. We offer all that we have and all that we are to you, because we belong to you. Bless these gifts, and empower us, your church, that through the work of your Spirit we may be a refuge for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the storm, and a shade from the heat. Through Christ, our shield and our stronghold. Amen.

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** *The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound* #766
(Tune of "In Christ There is No East or West")

Congregational Meeting

*Benediction

***Postlude** *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* Heinrich Fleischer

*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



***Practices of Fruitful Congregations:
Risk-Taking Mission and Service
Sunday, October 15, 2017***