

~Gathering the Family of God~

The Peal of the Church Bell

Prelude *Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice* Michael Praetorius

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: You shall love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

All: When we love one another we love Jesus.

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

All: We will share the love we've been shown through acts of hospitality and welcome.

*Hymn *I Come With Joy* #515

*Call to Confession

God so loves us as to bathe us with grace and feed us with mercy and forgive us our sins. Confident in the love of God, let us pray together.

*Confession of Sin (unison)

Lord God, while we were still slaves to sin, you died for our salvation.

Yet we still worship the false gods of the world, forgetting that you are Lord.

Loving worldly wealth, we have not loved you with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Trusting worldly strength, we have not trusted your word nor followed the Word-made-flesh. Forgiving by worldly norms, we have not shown mercy to others as you have shown mercy to us. Forgive us yet again, we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

***Silent Confession**

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. And Christ died for us; Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*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

Holy Spirit, as your word is read and preached, pass among your gathered people, opening minds to increase understanding, opening hearts to bind us together in your love. In Jesus' name we ask it. **Amen.**

Old Testament Genesis 18:1-8 page 14

Epistle Hebrews 13:1-2 page 227

Epistle Ephesians 2:17-22 page 193

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

Choral Anthem *We Are One, Lord* Stan Pethel

Gospel Matthew 22:1-10 page 24

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

Message *Radical Hospitality* 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~

Life in Our Church Community

Invitation to Give

Let us be glad in our Maker and rejoice in our King.
Let us praise God's name with dancing and music;
Let us bring to God our tithes and offerings.

Ps. 149:2-3

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings & Friendship Pad

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

Offertory

Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word

J.S. Bach

*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)

Ever-present God just as Jesus promised to be among us when two or three gather in his name, be among us now that these offerings may become instruments of your hospitality and love. In the name of Jesus, we pray. 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

Let Us Build A House

#301

*Benediction

May each day be a new beginning,
a new opportunity to open ourselves
to the mystery and miracle of life
and to give from our hearts in generous hospitality
to a world that needs us.
Go now in the grace and peace of Christ, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God

G.F. Kaufman

*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:

Radical Hospitality

Sunday, September 17, 2017