

Scriptural Meditation

*For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command:
"Love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:14*

~Gathering the Family of God~

The Peal of Our Church Bell

Welcome and Greeting One Another with the Peace of Christ

Prelude *Meditation on 'Faithfulness'* by Douglas Wagner

Call to Worship

One: We gather here today to praise God for God's mighty acts in our lives.
Yet there are many people who do not believe in God's presence.

**All: We are called to learn of God's love and power.
We are called to proclaim God's transforming love to all people.**

One: Lord, search our hearts and speak to our spirits.
Encourage us to freely follow you.

**All: Help us to be dependable disciples,
joyfully proclaiming your transforming power and love.**

Prayer of Invocation

* **Gathering Song** *Great is Thy Faithfulness* # 39

* **Prayer of Reconciliation**

Let us remain standing and express ourselves to God.

All: Redeeming God, how easily we say we would follow you, but how often we live as if we don't have a clue as to what that means. We choose to gossip about our friends, rather than surrounding them with love. Forgive us and set us free to serve in love and compassion; help us to feast on the fruit the Spirit offers to us; put us on the path of faithful discipleship, as we walk with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

* **A Time for Contemplation** (a private time for you and God)

* **Assurance of Forgiveness**

One: Friends, call to mind what God has done for you;
think about how God's love comes in fresh and surprising ways;
reflect on the fruit of the Spirit poured out upon you.
Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

All: 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.

God's Word for Little Ears

~Hearing God's Word~

Prayer for Understanding God's Word

All: Dear God, we know that we each have been made and blessed with varying abilities and gifts for your unique purpose. During times of turmoil and transition, we can choose to become stagnant, or we can choose to be transformed by Your love. When we choose transformation we choose to fully share in the vision of a community led by the Spirit—a community of love, gentleness, self-control, joy, patience, peace, faithfulness, kindness, and generosity. When we follow Christ, we take up his mantle, moving forward together. May we all say, "I will follow you wherever you go." Amen.

Old Testament Lesson 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 page 332

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

Psalm Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 (NIV)

I cried out to God for help;

I cried out to God to hear me.

**When I was in distress, I sought the Lord;
at night I stretched out untiring hands, and I would not be comforted.**

I will remember the deeds of the Lord;
yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.

**I will consider all your works
and meditate on all your mighty deeds."**

Your ways, God, are holy.

What god is as great as our God?

**You are the God who performs miracles;
you display your power among the peoples.**

With your mighty arm you redeemed your people,
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

**The waters saw you, God,
the waters saw you and writhed; the very depths were convulsed.**

The clouds poured down water,
the heavens resounded with thunder; your arrows flashed back and forth.

**Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind,
your lightning lit up the world; the earth trembled and quaked.**

Your path led through the sea,
your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen.

**You led your people like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.**

Special Anthem *How Can I Keep from Singing* (#821)
Sheri Mitchell, soloist

New Testament Epistle Galatians 5:1, 13-25 page 190

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

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

Jesus said, "It is time to Go."

Pastor Kim Nelson

~Responding to God's Word~

*Affirmation of Faith

Let us stand and affirm our faith.

All: 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 Spirit, 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 Spirit; 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]

Invitation to Become a Joyful Giver

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings & Friendship Pad

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

Offertory

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore (#721) arr. by John Carter

*Doxology

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow/Doxology

All: 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: A-men.

Tune: Old Hundredth LM, Genevan Psalter 1551, Public Domain.

Prayers of the People followed by Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

~Going Forth to Serve God~

Life in Our Church Community

*Song of Sending Forth

God of Grace and God of Glory

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*Litany of Departure

see insert

*Postlude

Carillon de Westminster

by Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

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*Please stand, if you are able.

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

Music printed and recorded for congregational use only under CCLI # 11373529

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Shirley Sullivan, Church Secretary
Charles Wiles, Treasurer
Jean Cairns, Bookkeeper
Rebecca Nelson, Keyboard, Music Ministry Team
Kathy Woodfin, Nursery Attendant
Joanna Shaver, Wedding Coordinator
Gina Thomas, Maintenance
Rev. Dr. Kim L Nelson, D. Min. Pastor

THE SESSION

CLASS OF 2016

Nancy Bray
John Broeckling
Caroline Manuel
Joanna Shaver

CLASS OF 2017

Paul Farris
Melissa Harris
Janna Tuck

CLASS OF 2018

Barbara Calvin
Scott Harrison
Harvey Hecht
Jeanne Hirsch

SERVICE AND CHURCH SCHOOL

10:30 A.M. Worship Service
10:45-11:30 Children and Youth Sunday School

GENERAL NOTICES

Childcare for infants, toddlers and preschoolers is provided during worship.
The Session meets the third Sunday of the month.
The Church sponsors Boy Scout Troop 4, Marcia Warren Scoutmaster, and
Cub Scout Pack 15, Brian Hall Cubmaster

Litany of Departure

Ruling Elder Horton Miller: Dear Christian friends, in the book of Ecclesiastes, it is written:

"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to seek, and a time to lose...."

Our Pastor, Kim L. Nelson and Music Ministry Team Member and organist Rebecca H. Nelson are leaving us to enter into retirement. Today, therefore, it is a time to mark the ending of their ministry here at the First Presbyterian Church of Cape Girardeau; a time to look back, and a time to look forward; a time for joy, and a time for sadness. It is a time to give thanks and praise to Almighty God for gifts that have been given.

Ruling Elder Sharon Metcalfe: Blessed be God.

All: And blessed be his holy name.

One: The Lord makes everything beautiful in its time.

All: Whatever God does endures forever.

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

All: And forget not all his benefits.

One: Bless the Lord, in all places of his dominion.

All: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Ruling Elder John Broeckling: For everything there is a season; a time to go, and a time to come. Yet the Spirit blows where it will. And for those who are led by the Spirit, they must follow. God has blessed our congregation with the faithful service of Pastor Kim and Rebecca. They have been our co-worker in Christ, our counselors, our teachers, our friends. With joy and sadness, we mark and celebrate the ending of their ministry with us.

All: Pastor Kim, we called you to be our pastor, to proclaim God's Word, to baptize new members, to announce God's forgiveness to us, to preside at our celebrations of the Lord's Supper, and to comfort us with the Gospel in times of sickness, trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. You have provided leadership and guidance for us in the Spirit of Christ. You have challenged us with the Gospel mission in your work. You have helped us to mark our direction and encouraged us on our way.

Ruling Elder Janna Tuck: Rebecca, you have served faithfully among us in the gift of music and fellowship. You have inspired us with hymns, anthems, and sound of our organ. Your creativity in liturgy has lifted our hearts nearer to God. At times of joy, your music helped our hearts soar. At times of grief, your music helped us mourn. At times of sadness, your music encouraged us. At all times, your gifts drew us closer to God.

All: Together with you, we have served the Lord and the Church in common devotion to the Gospel. Sharing in our joys and sorrows, you have been important to us in our life together in the Church of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Kim: People of God, you called me to serve in this place, and now God has seen fit to lead me into retirement. After my arrival and, when the need in music ministry presented itself, Rebecca was called by God and our Session to serve His purposes. We praise God for the time which we have shared together with you. We have known your love and your patience. You have ministered to us as we have ministered to you. You have been our teacher as we have been yours. You have forgiven us as we have forgiven you. Hand-in-hand, we have walked in the light of Christ, and we have grown together in the Gospel. Our lives have been intertwined by the Holy Spirit, and we shall not forget you.

Ruling Elder Ann Parkinson: In thanksgiving, let us pray for Pastor Kim and Rebecca and for our life together.

All: Eternal God, we thank you for Pastor Kim and Rebecca and for our life together in this congregation and community. You have led them by the Holy Spirit to serve your people in this place, to build up your Church, and to glorify your name. We have worked in common for the sake of the Gospel. Together we have broken bread and given thanks. In thanksgiving, we praise you for calling faithful servants among us for Your glory. We pray that Pastor Kim and Rebecca may continue to exemplify, in word and deed, the Gospel of your Son. Grant that we, with them, may continue to serve you in the Church on earth, and rejoice in your kingdom forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

Pastor Kim: Scripture tells us that endings are only new beginnings. Therefore, let us go forth, doing God's Will in our respective places, for the sake of the Gospel of Christ.

All: Go now, and do God's Will. As you both have been a blessing to us, go to be a blessing to others in your retirement and wherever God takes you.

Pastor Kim: As you have been a blessing to us, so also may you be a blessing to others and the servant-leaders of Christ who will follow.

All: We shall witness faithfully in word and deed to the love and salvation that is known to us through Jesus Christ. We will exhibit the "fruits of the Spirit"- love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Pastor Kim: Give and receive comfort as you serve within the Church and the world.

All: We will give and receive comfort as Christ serves through us.

Pastor Kim: May God, the Father, bless you in your ministry in this place.

All: May God, the Father, bless you and Rebecca in retirement and wherever God leads you.

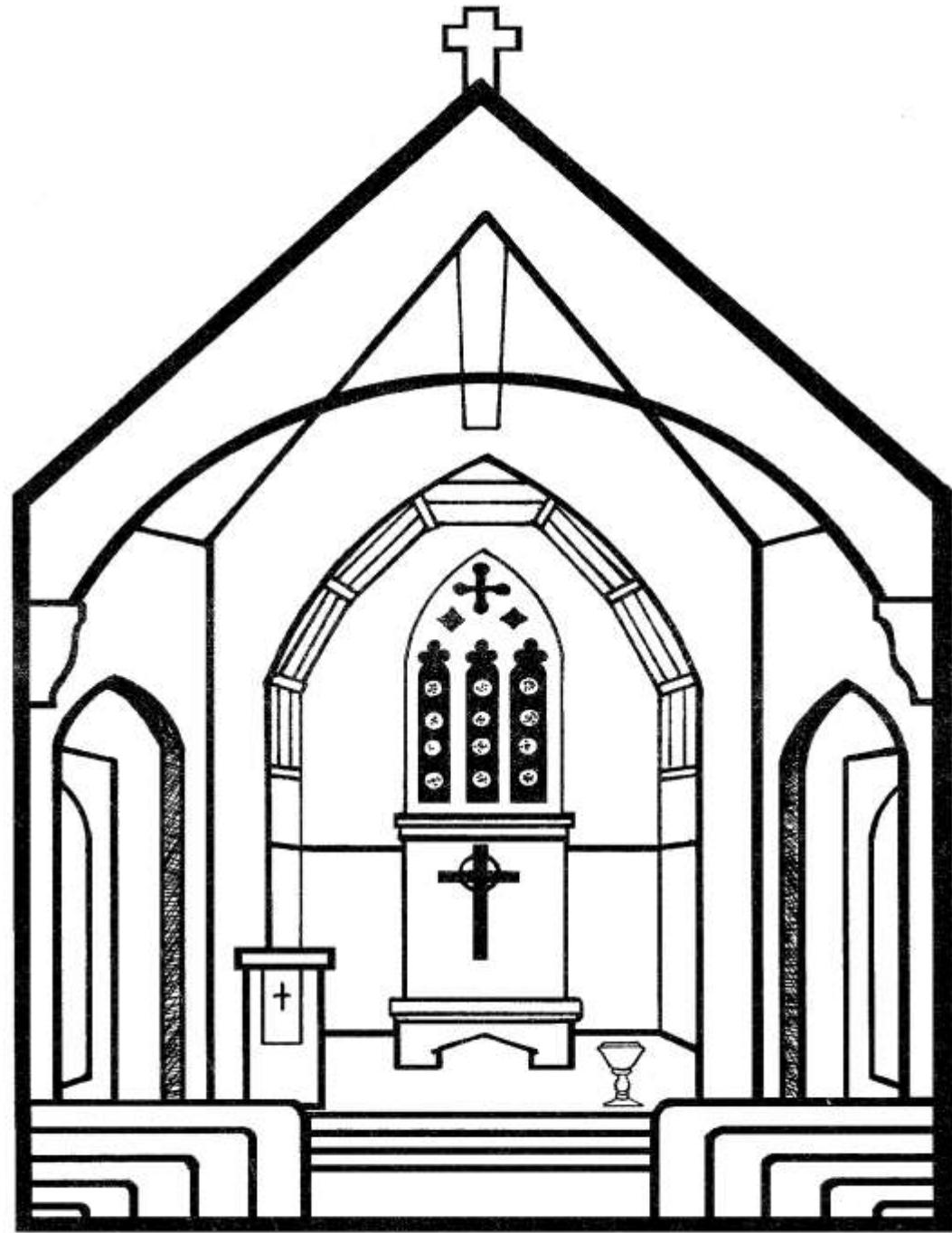
Pastor Kim: May God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you always.

All: May God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you always.

Pastor Kim: And may you always know the Peace of Christ.

All: Amen! Amen!

At the conclusion of the Benediction, the Pastor shall remove his stole and place it on the Communion table usually near the foot of the Sanctuary Cross. This ancient ritual represents the laying down of the pastoral office of the current pastor and prepares it to be bestowed upon the new pastor whom God will choose by the Holy Spirit through the congregation and the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI