

~Gathering the Family of God~

The Peal of Our Church Bell**Welcome and Greeting One Another with the Peace of Christ**

Prelude *He is Exalted* by Twila Paris

Call to Worship (Choir) *Come Sing Oh Church in Joy!* #305

Call to Worship

One: There is a time for celebrating,

All: and this is that time.

One: There is a time for confessing,

All: and this is that time.

One: There is a time for dreaming,

All: and this is that time.

Opening Prayer

One: God, we bring our stories to this place and we wait to be held by yours.

We bring our faithfulness:

All: shape it with grace

One: We bring our success:

All: shape it with generosity

One: We bring our weaknesses:

All: shape them with compassion

One: We bring our possibilities:

All: shape them with hope.

*** Gathering Song** *God is Here!* # 409

*** Prayer of Confession**

Let us remain standing and express ourselves to God.

One: We confess, God, that the way is hard and we are tired.

All: Speak to our tiredness with your story of grace

One: We confess that the way is unclear and we do not know the path

All: Speak to our wandering with your story of vision

One: We confess that we are tired of waiting and we just want to make it happen

All: Speak into our impatience with your story of wisdom

One: Let your story be our story and we pray this in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

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

One The God of Covenant, who names each of us as one of the chosen people, continues to supply our needs and be our constant companion. Though we struggle, in the words of Luke, "To pray always," we need not lose heart. The Holy One will not abandon: the Beloved is our grace, the healer of our lives. Though we sometimes grow weary, take heart, for our god is with us always to forgive us and remember our sins no more, to grant justice and to offer love.

All: In Jesus Christ, I am forgiven! 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.

~Hearing God's Word~

God's Word for Little Ears Terry Epling

Heifer Project - Recognition of Birthdays and Anniversaries.

A Song of Blessing (Adapted from an Irish Blessing, Tune: *Amazing Grace*)

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

Prayer for Understanding God's Word

All: God of mercy, you promised never to break your covenant with us. Amid all the changing words of our generation, speak your eternal Word that does not change. Then may we respond to your gracious promises with faithful and obedient lives; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson Jeremiah 31:27-34 Page 735

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

Psalm Psalm 137:1-6 Page 576

Anthem *Oh Jesus I Have Promised* John Carter

New Testament Epistle Acts 2: 42-47 7:54-60 Page 120/126

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

Message *The Ideal Church* Terry Epling

Hymn *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* # 366

~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 *Grace Alone* by Scott Brown and Jeff Nelson

***Doxology** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow/Doxology* # 606

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, You Spin the Whirling Planets* # 23

***Choral Benediction** Dale Wood Traditional

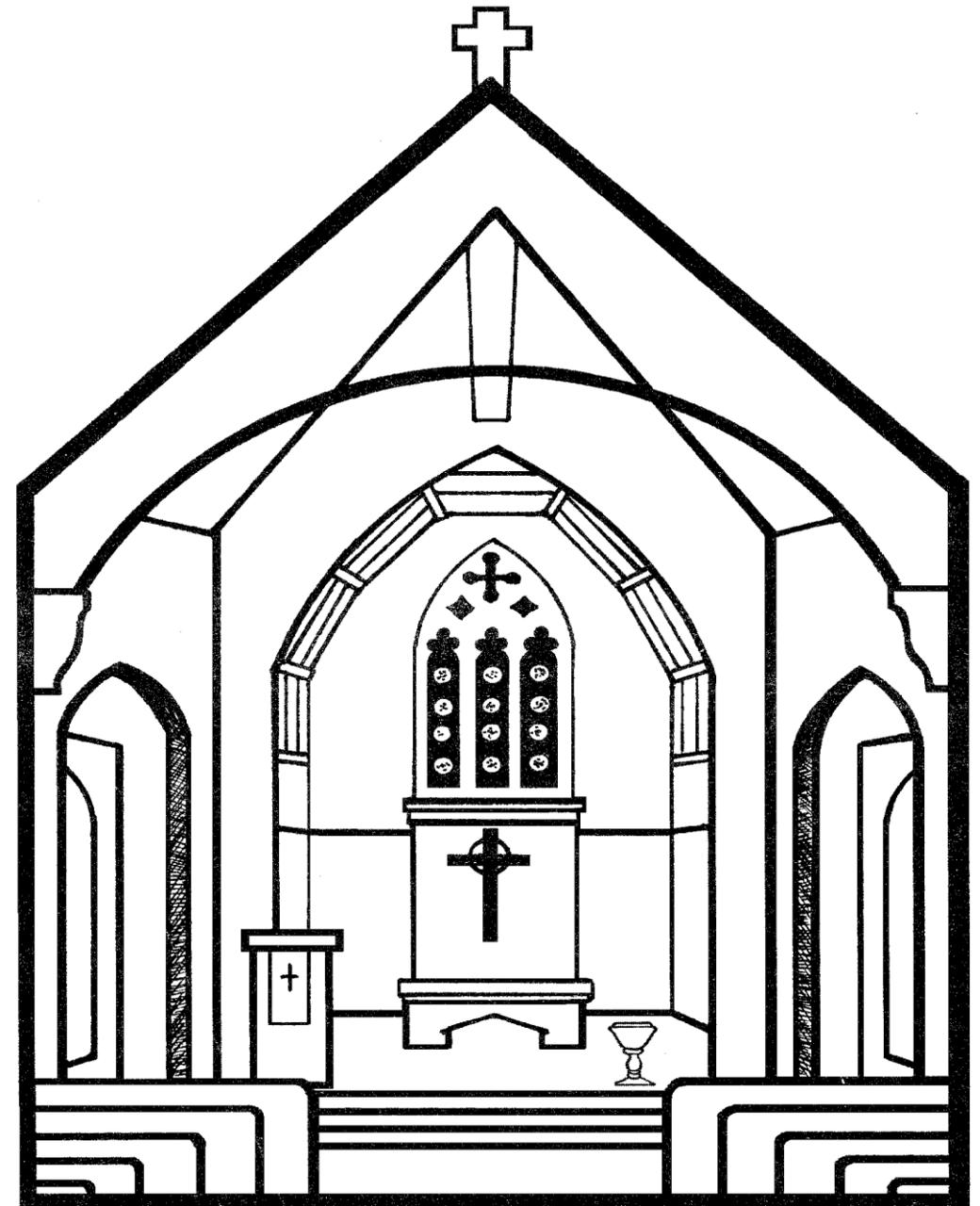
***Benediction**

***Postlude** *My Redeemer Lives* by Reuben Morgan

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*Please stand, if you are able.

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI