

~Gathering the Family of God~

The Peal of Our Church Bell

Welcome and Greeting One Another with the Peace of Christ

Prelude

Choral Call to Worship *The Summons*

Call to Worship

One: Sometimes we feel too small and insignificant to be of any notice to Jesus.

**All: Yet the Lord provides a tree for us to climb so that we can see Jesus.**

One: That tree is faithfulness, compassion, love, hope, joy.

**All: We are given the opportunity to witness to the Savior's presence in our lives.**

One: Lord, help us when we forget how much we are loved by Christ.

**All: Open our hearts to receive his invitation this day. AMEN.**

Opening Prayer

**All: Lord God of love and peace, open our hearts today to receive the invitation of Jesus to come and be present in our lives. Release us from our smallness and create an atmosphere of confession and healing love in our hearts and our spirits. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name, AMEN.**

\* Gathering Song *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* #35

\* Prayer of Confession

*Let us remain standing and express ourselves to God.*

**All: Lord of mercy, forgive us when we make excuses for our lack of faith. We let our selfishness and apathy get in the way of illumination and peace. We find ways to duck out of our opportunities for service and witness, claiming that we are too small or too ill-equipped to be effective witnesses to Jesus Christ. All of our lives God has been present to us, whether or not we knew it. God's love is always surrounding us. Yet we have not always recognized it. We complain about the misfortunes that have befallen us and wonder where God is. We want immediate release from our struggles. Help us, O Lord. Stop us from being so faithless. Open our hearts with your forgiving spirit that we, having been healed and forgiven, may be effective witnesses to your love and compassion. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

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

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

One: You have always been loved by God. Know that you are healed and forgiven, that God has placed a special blessing in your life. Rejoice! For God is with you. Serve God in all that you say, think, and do. Believe this good news:

**All: We are forgiven and freed to newness of life.**

**\*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

Prayer for Understanding God's Word

**All: As the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, enrich us with wisdom, and bless us with growth, O God of our salvation. Amen.**

**Old Testament Lesson** Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4 Page 871

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

**Psalm** Psalm 119:137-144 Page 566

**Anthem** *When We are Living* by Hal Hopson

**New Testament Epistle** 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 Page 205

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

**Gospel Lesson** Luke 19:1-10 Page 82

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

**Message** *Lessons to Live By* Sam Roethemeyer

~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 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]

**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**

**\*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: Amen.*

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

**Prayers of the People and 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**      *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*      #611

**\*Choral Benediction**      *Goodness is Stronger than Evil*

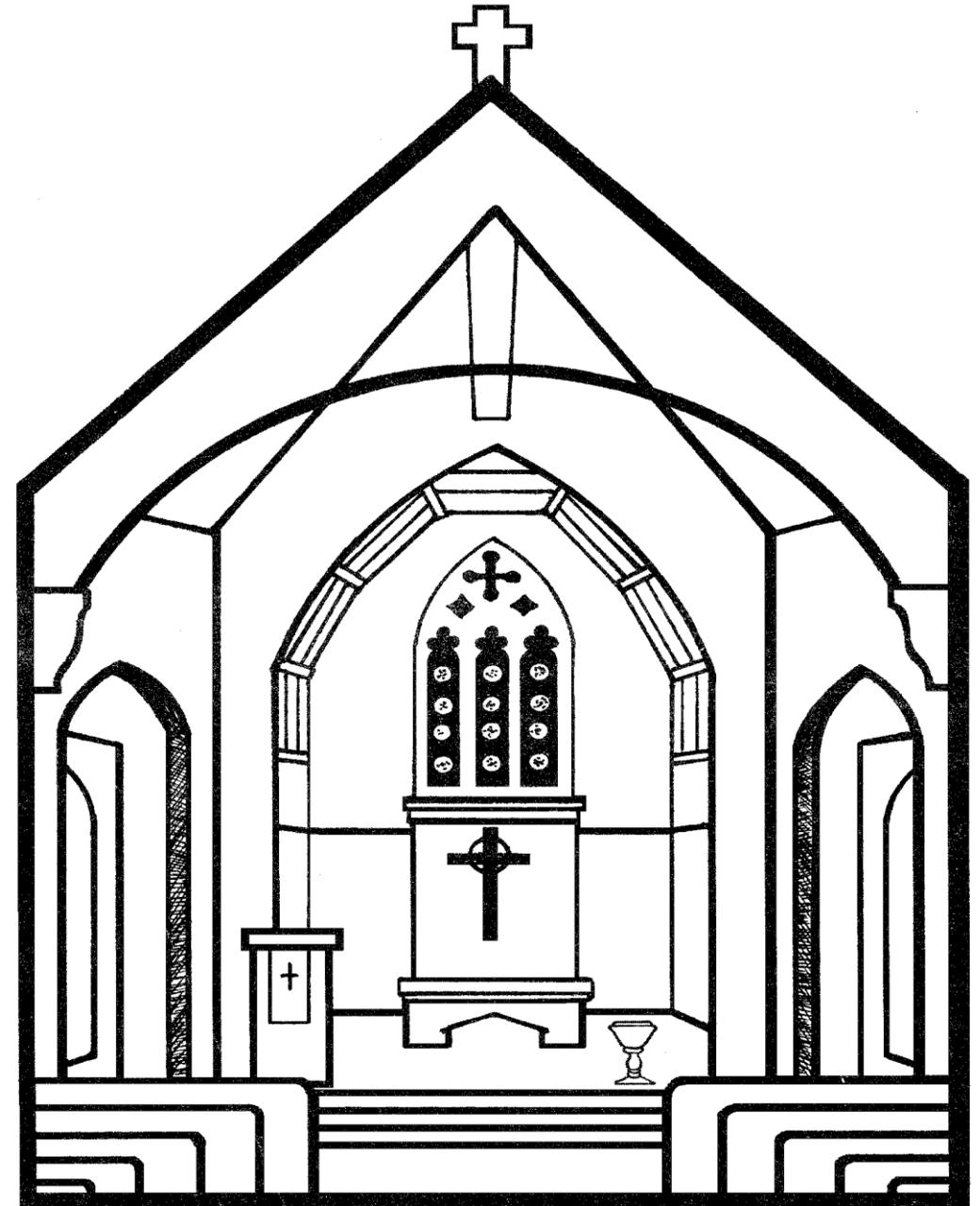
**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

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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