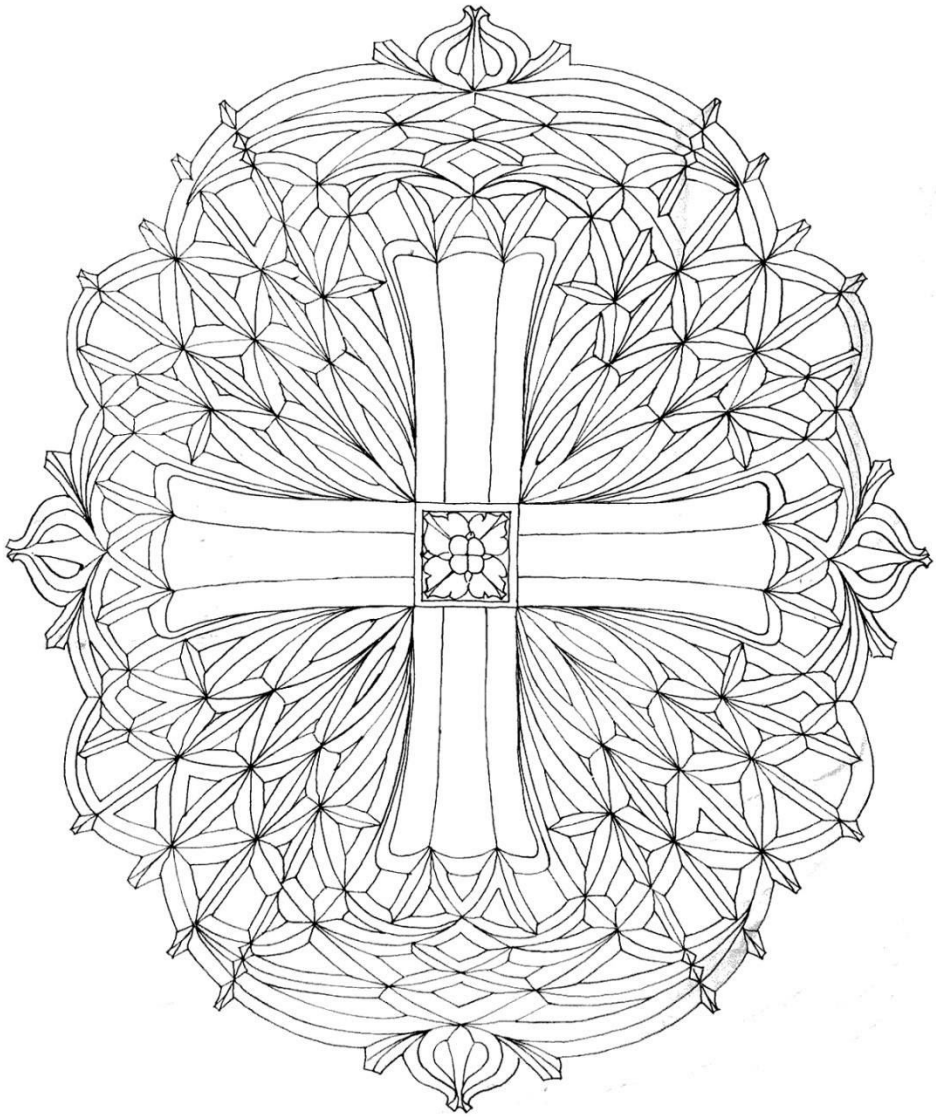
First Presbyterian Church

September 20, 2020

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of Raleigh

Serving Christ from the heart of the city to the ends of the earth with love, faith and action.

We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Organ Prelude *"Air" from Water Music* G. F. Handel

Call to Worship

Make a joyful noise to the Lord our God, let the whole earth sing praises to the Holy One!
The whole earth worships you, O God, and with gladness, we sing our songs of praise!
Let us worship God!

Hymn "Come, Worship God" No. 386

Prayer of Confession Laurie Taylor Weicher

We confess, O God, that while we celebrate the unmerited favor that has been lavished upon us, we tend to think other people should get what they deserve, and nothing more. And so not only can we be stingy with our own love, O God, but we also think you should be more stingy with yours, and that you should be more selective about who receives your grace. Help us to better understand your nature, O God, and to learn to celebrate your extravagance. Help us to see that love poured out for our neighbors does not diminish the love poured out for us, for the well of your grace is deep, and wide. Grateful for the grace shown to us through Jesus Christ, hear now our own prayers of confession….

Kyrie | **Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.**

Assurance of Pardon

Response to Pardon

Friends in Christ, in response to this gift of God's grace, how then shall we live?
With gratitude, following after the Lord Jesus Christ, who calls us to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves.
This is the way of Jesus, in whom we find life!

We Celebrate our Life Together

Joys and Concerns and Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession Judy Pidcock

The 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.**

We Listen to God's Word

A Moment for Children — Katy Schafer

Scripture Readings — Jonah 3:1-5,10 4:1; Matthew 20:1-16

Sermon — "Re-Calculating Fairness" — Ed McLeod

We Respond to God's Word

Hymn — "Help Us Accept Each Other" — No. 754

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed) **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 at 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.**

An Invitation to Generosity

Offertory — *"My Lord, What a Mornin'"* — Trad. Spiritual, arr. Howard Helvey
Andy Eaton, Baritone

Prayer of Dedication

We Bear God's Word into the World

Hymn — "There Is Now a New Creation" — No. 774

Charge and Benediction

Benediction Response

Go with us Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,
that in Your Spirit, strong and true, our lives may be our gift to you.

Organ Postlude — *"Trumpet Tune"* — Jeremiah Clarke