

First Presbyterian Church
September 5, 2021

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



*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

"Come Unto Me, All Ye Who Labor" from *Messiah*

G. F. Handel

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

"The Reapers"

Francois Couperin

Call to Worship (*Psalm 146:1-2,10*)

(8:30) Katy Schafer (11:00) Beth Thaxton

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the LORD!

*Hymn

["Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"](#)

No. 645

Prayer of Confession

God of everlasting love, have mercy on us. We have heard your call to love our neighbor, but we have been reluctant to love those who are different. We confess that we often see only what we want to see and close our eyes to injustice. We judge unfairly, idolizing power and wealth and those who possess them. Forgive us for the times we remained silent when we should have spoken and for the times we spoke words that harmed more than helped. Heal the wounds we have caused to others and ourselves. Trusting in your forgiveness, hear this prayer and the silent prayers of confession we now add.

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!

*Gloria Patri

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.

We Celebrate our Life Together

Joys and Concerns of the Church Family

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession and 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.

Congregational Response to Prayer

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.

We Listen to God's Word

A Moment for Children (11:00)

Katy Schafer

Children ages 4 - 5th grade can leave for a LEGO lesson for the remainder of the service. Pick up in Memorial Hall.

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 35:4-7a, Mark 7:24-37

Sermon

"Do You Hear What I Hear?"

Barbara M. Styers

We Respond to God's Word

*Hymn

["Live into Hope"](#)

No. 772

*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

"Shall We Gather at the River" arr. Andrew Carter
(8:30) Steven Vinolas, Baritone; (11:00) Chancel Choir

*Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below,
Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise God above; ye heavenly host, praise Father,
Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

*Prayer of Dedication

We Bear God's Word into the World

*Hymn

["In Christ There Is No East or West"](#)

No. 318

*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.**

*Postlude

"The Harmonious Blacksmith"

G. F. Handel

* All those who are able may stand.

Tricia Hoover is assisting with the LEGO lesson today.

The Chancel flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are given in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Cassilly by their daughter Joan, and son and daughter-in-law, Tom and Doris Cassilly.