

Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church



*Welcome to Worship at
Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church!*

*Our faith community extends a warm welcome to
all worshipping with us today and hopes that you
will return often.*

Welcoming All, Serving Christ, Transforming Lives

The Service for the Lord's Day;
16th Sunday after Pentecost; September 20, 2020

Our vocalist today is Helen Ford.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Linda & Howard Jennings' parents; Frances & Harold Crosier, and Lena & Olas Jennings.

CHIMING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

Rev. Nancy Dawson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Nancy Dawson

PASSING OF THE PEACE

As you are seated, the right side of the sanctuary will turn to the left side of the sanctuary and share the ancient words of the church: *"the peace of Christ be with you "*

Then the left side of the sanctuary will turn while seated and respond: *"And also with you."*

PRELUDE

Amazing Grace

arr. Broughton

DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Steve Hubbard, Liturgist

L: Remember again the wonderful works of God; rejoice in the abundance of God's steadfast love.

P: God has blessed us beyond all deserving. God's love and mercy are from everlasting to everlasting.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Generous God, you come to us again and again, no matter how late it is in the day or in our lives. Calling to us, gathering us in, you give us your good work to do, daily bread, and boundless grace. Increase in us a generous spirit so that we may do your work with joy alongside others whom you also love. We celebrate your salvation not only in our lives, but also in the lives of other people, even those we had not imagined would be included in the kingdom you are bringing. Align us with your ways and help us receive your gift of justice and mercy as good news. In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

HYMN #629

Jesus the Very Thought of Thee (vs 1, 3, 5)

1 Jesus, the very thought of thee
with sweetness fills my breast.
But sweeter far thy face to see,
and in thy presence rest.

5 Jesus, our only joy be thou,
as thou our prize wilt be.
Jesus, be thou our glory now,
and through eternity.

3 O hope of every contrite heart,
O joy of all the meek,
to those who fall, how kind thou art!
How good to those who seek!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Steve Hubbard, Liturgist

As children of God we seek to do the will of God, but we often fall far short, separating ourselves from God's love and hurting ourselves and those around us. The God we worship and serve is full of mercy and grace and offers us forgiveness through his son, Jesus Christ, who died for us, rose for us and reigns in power and glory interceding on our behalf. Trusting in God's grace, let us now confess our sins to God first silently and then together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we have sinned. We have done wrong, turning our backs on you and dealing wickedly with others. We forget your marvelous works and the abundance of your love. We resist your grace and instead grab for that which is not even good for us. Forgive our self-centered ways. Let the manner of life reflect instead the Gospel of Christ. In whose name we pray, AMEN

(Please take a moment of silence for personal confession and reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God loves us even when we do not return God's love. God's forgiveness is always available to anyone who repents of the wrong they have done and seeks to follow God's will. Live with joy as forgiven people, gathered in Christ's name and committed to a new way of life. Let us stand and sing praise to God for his mercy and love.

Choral Response Hymn #633

Praise Ye The Lord

Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah,
Everybody praise the Lord.

Praise God on top of the mountains.
Praise God both day and night.
Praise God down in the low valleys.
Praise God because it's all right.

DISCIPLES LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 1:20-30

Philip Hubbard, Lector

It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

ANTHEM

The Gift of Love

arr. Hopson

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 20:1-16

Nancy Dawson

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

SERMON

It Isn't Fair

Nancy Dawson

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostle's Creed

Hymnal, page 35

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.

HYMN #719

Come, Labor On

1 Come, labor on.
Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain
while all around us waves the golden grain?
And to each servant does the Master say,
"Go work today."

2 Come, labor on.
Claim the high calling angels cannot share;
to young and old the gospel gladness bear.
Redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly.
The night draws nigh.

3 Come, labor on.
Cast off all gloomy doubt and faithless fear!
No arm so weak but may do service here.
Though feeble agents, may we all fulfill
God's righteous will.

4 Come, labor on.
No time for rest, till glows the western sky,
till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie,
and a glad sound comes with the setting sun,
"Well done, well done!"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, page 35

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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING (UNISON)

Let us pray together. Gracious God, you give us tasks to perform. You equip us with strengths and abilities beyond what we desire. In Christ you call us to faithfulness, to exercise obedience and service. We come now offering the fruits of our labors. Use them and us to further your kingdom on earth. AMEN

HYMN #724

O Jesus, I Have Promised

1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.

2 O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near:
I see the sights that dazzle; the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer and shield my soul from sin.

3 O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.

4 O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be.
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.

BENEDICTION

Nancy Dawson

POSTLUDE

A Song of Gladness

Barnett