SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 16, 2023
11:00 AM

CHURCH LIFE UPDATE — Tim Boggess

INTROIT — *How Great is Our God* (C. J. Melton, soloist) — Tomlin

*** CALL TO WORSHIP** — (from 1 John 4:16b, 18-19) Carol Papa

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God,
and God abides in them.
There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear;
for fear has to do with punishment,
and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.
We love because God first loved us.

*** HYMN OF PRAISE 15** — *All Creatures of Our God and King* — LASST UNS ERFREUEN

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
O brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother wind with clouds and rain,
you nurture gifts of fruit and grain.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
O sister water, flowing clear,
make music for your Lord to hear.
Sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother fire, so warm and bright,
chase off the shadows of the night.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfolds such blessings on our way,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All who for love of God forgive,
all who in pain or sorrow grieve,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears;
so, even in the midst of tears,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (continued next page)

** Those who are able are invited to stand.*

And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
Sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Abiding God, we confess that we often choose to go our own way instead of following your way. We only ask for your direction when we are lost or have reached a dead end. Well, we are lost. Dead ends are all around us and within us. Show us again your path which leads to life. Remove any obstacles that are in the way of following you today, and everyday.

(a moment for silent reflection)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

* **SONG OF JOY 269** (v 2) *Lead On, O King Eternal* LANCASHIRE

Lead on, O King eternal,
till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords' loud clashing,
nor roll of stirring drums;
with deeds of love and mercy
the heavenly kingdom comes.

* **THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

SONG OF PREPARATION *Amazing Grace* Traditional
(C. J. Melton, soloist)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 14:1-15 Page 59

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *The Fearful Void* Tim Boggess
(Road Trips: Stories of Faith on the Move)

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *O Worship the King* arr. Steven Phillips

* **DOXOLOGY 608** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* PRAISE GOD

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from *A Declaration of Faith*
Carol Papa

The church's story with God did not end
with the latest events recorded in Scripture.
Across the centuries the company of believers
has continued its pilgrimage with the Lord of history.
It is a record of faith and faithlessness, glory and shame.

We confess we are heirs to the whole story.
We are charged to remember our past,
to be warned and encouraged by it,
But not to live it again.
Now is the time of our testing as God's story
with the church moves forward through us.
We are called to live now as God's servants
in the service of people everywhere.

*** HYMN OF SERVICE 815** *Give to the Winds Thy Fears* LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

Give to the winds thy fears;
hope, and be undismayed.
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears;
God shall lift up thy head.

Through waves and clouds and storms
God gently clears the way.
Wait patiently; so shall this night
soon end in joyous day.

Leave to God's sovereign sway
to choose and to command.
So shalt thou, wondering, own God's way,
how wise, how strong God's hand!

Let us in life, in death,
thy steadfast truth declare,
and publish with our final breath
thy love and guardian care.

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Tim Boggess

POSTLUDE Improvisation on Hymn to Joy Steven Phillips

Charlie "CJ" Melton is a 2020 graduate of Manatee High School and a professional singer and actor. Charlie has traveled throughout Florida singing with various church and nonsectarian groups; and has also won many first-place awards. He is excited to be in the upcoming season at West Coast Black Theatre Troupe and honored to be here as a guest at the First Presbyterian Church.