

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Twenty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time

A Service by the Congregation of Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church

September 13, 2020

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Ever-present God, who is at the side of every creature in creation, renew our lives so that we may discern and do your will, what is good and acceptable and perfect. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prelude *Jesus Loves Me*

arr. Parks
Sara Hoey, Organ

WELCOME AND POURING OF WATER

Rev. Eileen Lindner

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Patricia Shoppell

You, who are many, are transformed to become one in Christ.

**We, who are many, are called to worship God,
the Three in One.**

Let us worship God.

HYMN

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven (Psalm 103)

**Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;
glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven
who, like me, should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the Maker all your days!**

**Like a loving parent caring,
God knows well our feeble frame,
gladly all our burdens bearing,
still to countless years the same.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All within me, praise God's name!**

**Angels, teach us adoration;
you behold God face to face.
Sun and moon and all creation,
dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

From evil, even when it masquerades as good,

Merciful God, deliver us.

From selfishness and vain desires,

Merciful God, deliver us.

From irresponsible behaviors, quarreling, and jealousy,

Merciful God, deliver us.

From hurtful disagreements and irreconcilable differences,

Merciful God, deliver us.

Turn us away from the death sin inflicts.

Lead us into the abundant life Christ brings.

**Forgive us, we pray, and teach us to forgive,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

Laying aside the works of darkness,

we live in the light of Christ.

Gathered in Christ's name,

surely he is among us,

full of grace and truth.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven

and lifted up to new life.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

Praise God for the grace and favour

shown our forebears in distress;

God is still the same forever,

slow to chide, and swift to bless:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sing our Maker's faithfulness!

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and all that is within me,

bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and do not forget all his benefits—

Psalm 103:1-13

who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.
The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

Anthem *You Are God*

Twila Paris
Sandy Grebel, Soloist

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave

fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

This is the Gospel of Christ!
Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

In It For the Long Haul

Rev. Eileen Lindner

HYMN OF MEDITATION *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

**"Forgive our sins as we forgive,"
you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.**

**In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts are owed to us,
how great our debt to you!**

**Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls,
and bid resentment cease.
Then, by your mercy reconciled
our lives will spread your peace.**

Prayers of the People

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.**

Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

**There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.**

**For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving
for the goodness of our Lord.**

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Festival Voluntary

Jeremiah Clarke
Sara Hoey, Organ