

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

The Twenty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time

A Service by the Congregation of Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church

September 6, 2020

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, in the self-giving love of Christ you have revealed the path of salvation; give us courage to deny our selfish desire and bear the cross of discipleship, that we may live as those who have no fear of death and receive the joy of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prelude

*Prelude in Classic Style*

Gordon Young  
Sara Hoey, Organ

### **WELCOME AND POURING OF WATER**

Rev. Eileen Lindner

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Elder Liz Ploskonka

Sing a song of thanksgiving.

**Declare God's wondrous deeds.**

For the Lord dwells among the people;

**the glory of God abides with us.**

### **HYMN**

*Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

**Come, you faithful, raise the strain  
of triumphant gladness!**

**God has brought forth Israel  
into joy from sadness,  
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke  
Jacob's sons and daughters;  
led them with unmoistened foot  
through the Red Sea waters.**

**'Tis the spring of souls today:  
Christ has burst his prison,  
and from three days' sleep in death  
as a sun has risen.**

**All the winter of our sins,  
long and dark, is flying  
from the Light, to whom we give  
laud and praise undying.**

**Now the queen of seasons, bright  
with the day of splendor,  
with the royal feast of feasts  
comes its joy to render;  
comes to glad Jerusalem,  
who with true affection  
welcomes in unwearied strains  
Jesus' resurrection!**

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God,  
we confess that our love for you and for others  
has not been genuine.  
We have not held fast to what is good,  
and we have lagged in affection for our  
brothers and sisters.  
We have not been patient in suffering,  
nor have we persevered in prayer.  
We have repaid evil for evil  
and have failed to live peaceably with all.**

**Forgive us our sin,  
free us from fear of the power of evil,  
and help us trust in the power of your  
everlasting goodness;  
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON**

### **RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE**

**Neither could the gates of death,  
nor the tomb's dark portal,  
nor the watchers, nor the seal  
hold you as a mortal:  
but today, among your own,  
you appear, bestowing  
your deep peace, which evermore  
passes human knowing.**

## **\* PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

*Psalm 149*

Praise the Lord!

Sing to the Lord a new song,

his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Let Israel be glad in its Maker;

let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.

Let them praise his name with dancing,

making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

For the Lord takes pleasure in his people;

he adorns the humble with victory.

Let the faithful exult in glory;

let them sing for joy on their couches.

Let the high praises of God be in their throats

and two-edged swords in their hands,

to execute vengeance on the nations

and punishment on the peoples,

to bind their kings with fetters

and their nobles with chains of iron,

to execute on them the judgement decreed.

This is glory for all his faithful ones.

Praise the Lord!

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

Anthem            *Down to the River to Pray*

Ken Medema  
Melanie Chambers, Soloist

### NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

*Matthew 18:15-20*

‘If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.’

This is the Gospel of Christ!

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

**HYMN OF INVITATION**

*Help Us Accept Each Other*

**Help us accept each other  
as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother,  
each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us  
and bring us to believe  
we are ourselves accepted,  
and meant to love and live.**

**Let your acceptance change us,  
so that we may be moved  
in living situations  
to do the truth in love;  
to practice your acceptance  
until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness,  
and laughter's healing art.**

**Lord, for today's encounters  
with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance,  
for justice and for bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing,  
new hands for holding on:  
renew us with your Spirit;  
Lord, free us; make us one!**

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy.... (the Pastor continues)

## **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.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

(Those present and those at home partake of the elements)

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

### **HYMN**

*Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

**Go, My children, with My blessing,  
Never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you;  
You are My own.  
In My love's baptismal river  
I have made you Mine forever.  
Go, My children, with My blessing—  
You are My own.**

**In this union I have joined you  
Husband and wife,  
Now, My children, live together  
As heirs of life:  
Each the other's gladness sharing,  
Each the other's burdens bearing,  
Now, My children, live together  
As heirs of life.**

**I the Lord will bless and keep you  
And give you peace;  
I the Lord will smile upon you  
And give you peace:  
I the Lord will be your Father,  
Savior, Comforter, and Brother.  
Go, My children; I will keep you  
And give you peace.**

## **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

*An Early American March*

James Hewitt  
Sara Hoey, Organ