

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Twenty-eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time
A Service by the Congregation of Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church
October 11, 2020

PRAYER OF THE DAY *Matt. 21:33–46*

Holy God, Maker of heaven and earth, out of your great love for the world
you sent us your beloved Son— but we sent him to his death.
Have mercy on us, O Lord;
forgive us, renew us, restore us so that we may be the people of your vineyard
and bear good fruit for your holy realm; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Prelude

Autumn Intermezzo

James H. Rogers
Sara Hoey, Organ

WELCOME AND POURING OF WATER

Rev. Eileen Lindner

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Pat Shoppell

Whatever gains I had,
these I have come to regard as loss
because of Christ.

**I regard everything as loss
because of the surpassing value
of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.**

As the Scriptures promise:
the stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

**This is the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes.**

HYMN *For the Fruit of All Creation*

**For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.**

**For the gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God.**

**For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labor,
God's will be done.
In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will be done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will be done.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God, you have planted us
like a vineyard on a fertile hill.
You cleared away the stones,
planted us with choice vines,
and kept watch over us by night and day.
But we have not yielded the good fruit
that you expected or desired.
We are overgrown with sin,
choked with violence and injustice.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

**For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.**

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, ‘Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ Aaron said to them, ‘Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.’ So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mould, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, ‘Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.’ They rose early the next day, and offered burnt-offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!”’ The Lord said to Moses, ‘I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.’

But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, ‘O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, “It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth”? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, “I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it for ever.”’ And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Laudate Dominum

W.A. Mozart
Caitlin deBrigard

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 22:1-11

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.” But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.” Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe

This is the Gospel of Christ!

Praise to you, O Christ!

ANTHEM

The Wedding Banquet

Miriam Winter
Jonathan Yount

SERMON

Great Expectations

Rev. Eileen Lindner

HYMN OF MEDITATION *Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation*

**Lord, we have come at Your own invitation,
chosen by You, to be counted Your friends;
Yours is the strength that sustains dedication,
Ours a commitment we know never ends.**

**Here, at your table, confirm our intention,
give it your seal of forgiveness and grace;
teach us to serve without pride or pretension,
Lord, in your kingdom, whatever our place.**

**When, at your table, each time of returning,
vows are renewed and our courage restored,
may we increasingly glory in learning
all that it means to accept You as Lord.**

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

I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table

**I'm gonna eat at the welcome table;
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, Alleluia.
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table;
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, Alleluia.**

**I'm gonna join with sisters, brothers;
I'm gonna join with sisters, brothers, Alleluia.
I'm gonna join with sisters, brothers;
I'm gonna join with sisters, brothers, Alleluia.**

**We're gonna feast on milk and honey;
we're gonna feast on milk and honey, Alleluia.
we're gonna feast on milk and honey;
we're gonna feast on milk and honey, Alleluia.**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Allegro Vivace

G. F. Handel
Sara Hoey, Organist