

United Presbyterian Church

November 15, 2020

11:00am

WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Thanks for worshiping with us. Whether you are with us from the pew or with us via your computer screen, we are so glad you're here. Remember, worship is about God and we focus our eyes and hearts on the One who is before all things. At the same time, we know that when we gather, we receive gracious gifts and experience the love of Christ as one church.

To prepare for worship, read the Words of Preparation; read and reflect upon the Scripture passage for today. Be intentional about connecting with God in your worship.

Words for Preparation

"Theologians talk about a prevenient grace that precedes grace itself and allows us to accept it. I think there must also be a prevenient courage that allows us to be brave--that is, to acknowledge that there is more beauty than our eyes can bear, that precious things have been put into our hands and to do nothing to honor them is to do great harm. And therefore, this courage allows us, as the old men said, to make ourselves useful. It allows us to be generous, which is another way of saying exactly the same thing."

Marilynne Robinson, Gilead, 21st century

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome Song

"Here in this Place"

Call to Worship

Clothe yourself with faith and love;
be confident in your salvation in Christ Jesus.
The Lord is with us!
Let us worship God.

1 Thess. 5:9-10

Children's Message

Hymn No. 336 vs.1,3,4

"As a Chalice Cast of Gold"

Call to Confession

God has not destined us for wrath, but for salvation in Jesus, who died for us. Confident in God's mercies, let us confess our sin.

(Period of silence for personal confession)

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name.

Assurance of Pardon

Because we belong to our Lord Jesus Christ, we need not fear – for he lived for us, he died for us, he was raised for us, and prays for us. Believe the promise of your baptism: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Gloria Patri

Anthem

"Thanks Be to You, O Lord"

George F. Handel

Prayers of People and Lord's Prayer

Prayer for Illumination

Shine your light on your Word, O Lord; by your Spirit let us see your wonder. For your justice outruns our sense of fairness; your love overwhelms our deepest affections. Open our eyes, unstop our ears, and show us your most excellent way; for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:14-30 (New Revised Standard Version)

25:14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them;

25:15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

25:16 The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents.

25:17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.

25:18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

25:19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

25:20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.'

25:21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

25:22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.'

25:23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

25:24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed;

25:25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

25:26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?

25:27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.

25:28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.

25:29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.

25:30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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

Affirmation of Faith (Westminster Confession, 6.056, 6.058)

In the gospel God declares his love for the world and his desire that all people should be saved; reveals fully and clearly the only way of salvation; promises eternal life to all who truly repent and believe in Christ; invites and commands all to embrace the offered mercy; and by his Spirit accompanying the Word pleads with all people to accept his gracious invitation. Since there is no other way of salvation than that revealed in the gospel, and since in the divinely established and ordinary method of grace, faith comes by the hearing of the Word of God; Christ has commissioned his church to go into all the world and to make disciples of all nations.

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

God has entrusted us with a variety of gifts; let us return to the Lord a generous measure of our bounty with thanksgiving and praise.

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

(Please use this time for silent prayer and reflection as you consider ways to offer your life, your gifts, time, and commitment to God. You may give online at uptx.org/giving OR as you enter or exit the church sanctuary today. There are two offering boxes available. One is located at the Narthex and the other along the Commons hallway. A bowl for the Noisy Offering will also be placed at each location)

Prayer of Dedication

For all that you are and all that you do, we give you thanks, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. We wait in hope for the coming of your realm and offer these gifts to further your kingdom on earth; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn No: 389 vs. 1,3,4

" O Jesus, I Have Promised"

Benediction

Choral Benediction

"Go Now In Peace"

Postlude

Disciples: All Who Trust in Jesus Christ
 Ministers: All Members of the Congregation
 Pastor: Rev. Candice Richey Womack
 Liturgist: Bob Mudie
 Safety Team Members: Jerald Hicks and Jon Geer
 Music Director: Dominick Stephenson
 Organist: Cynthia Hibbetts
 Family Ministries Coordinator: Heather Lind
 Administrative Assistant: Pat De Mayo
 Nursery Attendants: Martha Hill, J. R. Hill

THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Candice Richey Womack
 Session Clerk: Stephanie Hogue

Class of 2020
 Kathy Derby
 Virginia Rutherford
 George Warren

Class of 2021
 John Hill
 John Wasson
 Jerald Hicks
 Stephanie Hogue

Class of 2022
 Jessica Morgan
 Ray Lancaster
 David Williams
 Bob Mudie

TRUSTEES

Jim Rutherford (2020)
 Heath Jarvis (2021)
 Polly Adams (2022)

MONDAY November 16	TUESDAY November 17	WEDNESDAY November 18	THURSDAY November 19	FRIDAY November 20	SATURDAY November 21	SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22
		5:15-6:10 pm Scholarship Singers 6:15-7:10 pm Handbells	4:30 pm Yoga Class			11:00 am Worship Service