



**First  
Presbyterian  
CHURCH** *Pottstown*



## Service of the Lord's Day

November 15, 2020

### God's People Gather

***"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go to the House of the Lord!" (Psalm 122:1)***

*With glad hearts, we welcome you to worship among this community of believers!*

*The decorated tubes in the pews are guides to assist us in caring for one another by maintaining safe distances. You may move the tubes in either direction in the pew to accommodate your "bubble." We invite you to hum the hymns or meditate on the words as the Sanctuary Singers sing on our behalf.*

### Greetings and Announcements

#### Prayer of Preparation

As you cause the sun to rise, O God, bring the light of Christ to dawn in our souls and dispel all darkness. Give us grace to reflect Christ's glory, that his love might show in our deeds, his peace shine in our words, and his healing in our touch, and all may give him praise, now and forever. Amen.

Prelude Variations on 'Foundation' – arr. Martin

#### \*Call to Worship

L: The Lord's unfailing love and mercy never cease, fresh as the morning and sure as the sunrise.

**P: The Lord is clothed with honor and majesty, wrapped in light, as with a garment.**

L: O Lord, open our lips,

**P: And our mouths shall proclaim your praise!**

#### \*Hymn O God Beyond All Praising

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today  
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;  
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,  
at blessings without number and mercies without end:  
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,  
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,  
that we who know your favor may serve you as our king;  
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,  
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:  
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,  
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

#### Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. As we examine our lives, illumine our hearts...(silent confession)

Gracious God, by your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

### Assurance of Pardon

L: Friends, believe the good news:

**P: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

L: Jesus says, "Follow me; I will lead you into life."

### \*Response

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

### God's Word is Heard

#### Time With Children

Anthem Prelude in F Minor -- J. S. Bach

Gary James, trumpet

Gospel Reading Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon

Rev. Karen Pidcock-Lester

### God's People Respond

#### \*Affirmation of Faith *(from the Confession of 1967)*

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of God's dealings with humankind. In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and discord, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator. People are free to seek life within the purpose of God: to develop and protect the resources of nature for the common welfare, to work for justice and peace in society, and in other ways to use their creative powers for the fulfillment of human life....Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage. Amen.

#### Giving Our Gifts

Prayer of Dedication

##### \*Doxology

We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

#### Prayers of the People

...The Lord be with you.

And also with you...

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.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.

## God's Sends Us Out

### **\*Hymn Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm**

Give thanks for those whose faith is firm  
when all around seems bleak:  
on God's good promise they rely,  
so while they live and when they die  
how forcefully they speak:  
the strong, who once were weak!

Give thanks for those whose hope is clear,  
beyond mere mortal sight:  
who seek the city God has planned,  
the true, eternal promised land,  
and steer on toward that light,  
a beacon ever bright.

Give thanks for those whose love is pure,  
a sparkling precious stone:  
they show by what they say and do  
an inward beauty, warm and true,  
for God's concerns they own:  
God's love through them is known.

### **\*Benediction**

### **\*Postlude Trumpet March – Clarke**

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

*Please leave the sanctuary by the side aisles and both doors; the deacons will guide you.  
Our sanctuary singers and instrumentalists this morning are Gary James, Bruce Achuff,  
Joanne Bianchini, Gayle Hall, and Sarah Pinard. Thank you!*