



**First
Presbyterian
CHURCH** *Pottstown*



Service of the Lord's Day
November 22, 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

O Lord our God, you are always more ready to bestow your good gifts upon us than we are to seek them. You are more willing to give than we desire or deserve. Help us to seek that we may truly find, so to ask that we may joyfully receive, so to knock that the door of your mercy may be opened for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prelude **Fairest Lord Jesus** – arr. Curry

***Call to Worship**

L: Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness and come before God's presence with a song.

P: **Know this: The Lord alone is God; we belong to the Lord, who made us, we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.**

L: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving; go into the holy courts with praise; give thanks and call upon the name of the Lord.

P: **For good is the Lord, whose mercy is everlasting; and whose faithfulness endures from age to age.**

***Hymn** **Come, Ye Thankful People, Come**

Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home. All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin. God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied. Come to God's own temple, come; raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit in thankful praise to yield, wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown. First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear. Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

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. (silent confession) In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

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 on "Nun Danket" -- arr. Phillips

Chancel Handbells

Old Testament Reading Ezekiel 34:11-22

Gospel Reading Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon – Judgment and the Least of These

Rev. W. Carter Lester, Jr.

God's People Respond

*Affirmation of Faith

In his concern for justice in the social order God has never forgotten the needs of individuals. In the end the Lord will judge all persons by the simple, unremembered acts of kindness they did or failed to do for the least of their sisters and brothers....We believe God sends us to risk our own peace and comfort in compassion for our neighbors. We are to give to them and receive from them, accepting everyone we meet as a person; to be sensitive to those who suffer in body or mind; to help and accept help in ways that affirm dignity and responsibility. We must not limit our compassion to those we judge deserving, for we ourselves do not deserve the compassion of God.

(from *A Declaration of Faith, PCUSA*)

***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

Thanksgiving Proclamation

***Hymn Now Thank We All Our God**

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices; who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us; and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

***Benediction**

***Postlude Trumpet Voluntary – Travers**

**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 Bruce Achuff, Joanne Bianchini, Katie DeNicco, Marguerite Detwiler Tim Detwiler, Alec Dorris, Gayle Hall, Andy Hazeltine, Laura Hazeltine, Julie Kovach, Sue Moyer, Sarah Pinard, Brent Stark, Susan Stark, and Rob Wade. Thank you!

The sanctuary flowers are given by Kenn and Patty Picardi in loving memory and Thanksgiving for their parents, Catherine Miller and Robert Picardi.