



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

August 20, 2023

Gathering Song: Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

† Call to Worship: (from Psalm 118 ESV)

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

People: Let those who fear the LORD say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Pastor: Out of my distress I called on the LORD; the LORD answered me and set me free.

People: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

Pastor: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

Unison: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

† Hymn: O God, Our Help in Ages Past

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

First Scripture Readings
Ephesians 3:14-21 Responsive

¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,¹⁸may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Responsive

¹Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ²for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

³ While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

⁴ But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.

⁶So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

⁹For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.

¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

† Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

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

† Hymn: I Am Not Skilled to Understand

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Change My Heart, O God

by Espinosa/Arr. Hayes

Pianist Yuta Sugano

† Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Second Scripture Readings

Romans 8:18-27 Responsive

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²² **We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.²³Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.**

²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

²⁶ **In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.**

Luke 21:20-38 Responsive

²⁰ "When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. ²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. ²²For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written.

²³ **How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great**

distress in the land and wrath against this people. ²⁴They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.

²⁷At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³²“Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴ “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

³⁷Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple, and each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives, ³⁸and all the people came early in the morning to hear him at the temple.

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

Sermon: Excess Baggage
Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: He Leadeth Me

† Responsive Litany (Titus 2:11-14)

Pastor: For the grace of God that offers salvation has appeared to all people.

People: It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.

Pastor: while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Unison: who gave himself for us to redeem us for all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Yuta Sugano, Musician

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

In Need of Prayer

Brenda, for improved health
Jen's father, chemo treatment
Jen, serious ankle injury/ Covid
Ed, for mobility, back pain
Nancy, health
Jane, encouragement
Darlene, heart and dialysis
Maureen, dear friend of Lisa
Reagan, child with seizures
Kay, hospice, for peace and pain relief
Kimi, for suffering
Pray for caregivers of those who are ill
Isaiah, age 17, brain injury/home care. Parents for strength
Richard, chemo, prep for stem cell transplant
Don's sister, Linda, breast cancer
Liz, treatment for MS
Jack W, deep grief loss of wife

Maui devastation, comfort and care

In Need of Prayer

Andy, home, greatly improved
Patty, strength to care for Andy/illness herself
Glad, for restored strength
Ray, increased recovery of strength
Benita, for improved blood counts
Jalene, MS flare-up and heart attack, husband care
Domingo, needs transplants; LaShell, cancer
Sean's aunt & uncle, heavy caregiving
Debbie, Pam's friend, cancer
Judy V. and family in Florida
Lance, brother-in-law of Isles family
Sue, sister-in-law of Isles family
Ron, age 34, heart failure, needs heart transplant
Katalee, for full healing of lymphoma
Nate, firefighter, for safety each day
Relatives of Clay family suffered a house fire
Alicia, niece of Carolyn, cancer diagnosis
Beth, fresh grief over death of husband

Connie, Mike's mother, in hospice

General Fund giving last week: \$3,261

Total giving to date August: \$7,406

Thank you for your faithful giving to the Lord.

Our continued sympathy is extended to Sue Work and her family, and to all of our congregation and friends who have lost loved ones in the recent past. The Lord be with you to comfort and sustain you.

Heidelberg Catechism Q. 117 How does God want us to pray so that he will listen to us? **A.** First, we must pray from the heart to no other than the one true God, who has revealed himself in his Word, asking for everything that he has commanded us to ask for. Second, we must acknowledge our need and misery, hiding nothing, and humble ourselves in his majestic presence. (More next week).