



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

September 17, 2023

Gathering Song: We Have Come to Join in Worship

† **Call to Worship:** (Psalm 105:1-5a, 45b ESV)

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

People: Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!

Pastor: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

People: Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!

Unison: Remember the wondrous works that he has done. Praise the LORD!

† **Hymn: Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above**

† **Invocation and the Lord's Prayer**

First Scripture Readings
Matthew 20:20-28 Responsive

²⁰Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

²¹**"What is it you want?" he asked.**

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

²²"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"
"We can," they answered.

²³**Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."**

²⁴**When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers.**

²⁵Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶Not so with you.

Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—²⁸just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

James 4:4-12 Responsive

⁴ You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

⁵**Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? ⁶But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:**

**"God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble."**

⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

¹¹**Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.**

¹² There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

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: We Are Called to Be God's People

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Fugue in C Major by J.S. Bach

Yuta Sagano

† 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

Philippians 2:1-13 Responsive

¹ Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Luke 22:24-30 Responsive

²⁴A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. ²⁵Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors.

²⁶**But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.**

²⁷For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

²⁸**You are those who have stood by me in my trials. ²⁹And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me,³⁰so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: If Anyone Wants to Be First

Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: The Servant Song

† Responsive Litany (from Hebrews 10)

Pastor: Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through us the curtain, that is, his body,

People: And since we have a great priest over the house of God,

Pastor: let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Unison: And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Yuta Sugano, Musician

To Our Visitors

We welcome you and hope our worship enables you to draw near to God through Christ Jesus, and that you feel welcome among us. Please sign our guest book in the Narthex.

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
Ed, for mobility, back pain
Nancy, health
Jane, encouragement
Darlene, heart and dialysis
Maureen, dear friend of Lisa
Raven, child with seizures
Kay, hospice, for peace and pain relief
Kimi, for suffering
Pray for caregivers of the ill
Isaiah, age 17, brain injury, home
Jack W, deep grief, loss of wife
Brenda’s nephew and his friends for encouragement and better jobs, and nephew Glenn: serious illness
Richard, expecting stem cell transplant and long hospitalization (Hartig family)
Caroline M’s mother, failing
Newborn boy (twin) in NICU

In Need of Prayer

Weston, 20 year old grandson, surgery 9/11
Lisa, Pastor’s niece, newly discovered cancer
Glad, for restored strength
Ray, continued recovery of strength
Benita, improved blood counts
Jalene, MS flare-up and heart attack, husband caring for her
Domingo, needs transplants; LaShell, cancer
Sean’s aunt & uncle, heavy caregiving
Debbie, Pam’s friend, hospitalized
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
Alicia, niece of Carolyn, cancer diagnosis
Beth, fresh grief over death of husband
Sarah, for strength to carry her load
Ryan, age 16, recent kidney transplant, also family donor
Donna’s friends, Sam, a bad infection, wife Janene
Tom & Carol’s son, back surgery, needs care of family
Pastor Scott McKee, serious cancer

General Fund giving last week: \$3,418
Total giving to date in Sept: \$11,941

Thank you for giving to the Lord.

Please continue to pray for our friend, missionary **Enrique Cepeda**, who required surgery to save his life, while ministering in Korea. Pray that an infection will be healed and he will recover quickly and return home to his family.

Heidelberg Catechism Q 121. Why the words, “Who art in Heaven”? **A.** These words teach us not to think of God’s heavenly majesty as something earthly, and to expect everything for body and soul from his almighty power.