A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
The Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 4, 2022  8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

*All who are able may stand.
Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING . . .

The Prelude  Meditation on “O How I Love Jesus”  John Rasley

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introt My Faith Looks Up to Thee

The Call To Worship (from Psalm 139)  Dave Peterson

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up.
You discern my thoughts from far away. You search my path and my lying down,
And are acquainted with all my ways.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!
I try to count them — they are more than the sand, I come to the end — I am still with you.

The Prayer of Adoration

O God, our Rock and Redeemer, You are the stronghold and the refuge of faith, the foundation of
hope and the safeguard for all who praise Your Name. With You we can walk and not stumble, run
and not fall, and lie down in safety. We shall fill our days with visions of Your lofty splendor, and
consider each moment as sacred because of Your grace. All glory, thanks and praise to You the One
Eternal God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The Hymn 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible, hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above; thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small. In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree, then wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.

Thou reignest in glory, thou dwellest in light. Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; oh, help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

*The Prayer of Confession

O God, You are the potter, shaping the world and molding our spirits. Your creation is an act of
grace and Your every word a fountain of life. Mold and shape us once again, O God, as we confess
our sins before You. Drip the water of Your Spirit onto our dry and cracking edges, and push us
with Your gentle fingers to reflect Your handiwork. Create love where there is hatred, deep faith
where there is shallow religion, generosity where there is selfish greed, and wholeness where there
are shattered pieces. For we know that Your work is not complete in us, and that our lives are
made complete in You. Forgive us our sins in Your great mercy . . . (time for silent confession)... .

*The Assurance of Pardon

God is just and takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked.
Through Christ there is hope of eternal forgiveness.
Turn back from your past and embrace God’s promised assurance.
In Christ there is redemption and release from all sin.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

* The Gloria Patri (sung)  p. 581 in the Hymnal

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

*The Peace and Greeting
The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**
(Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ. For those worshiping at home, please share Christ’s peace with someone outside Your home this week.)

**TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .**

The Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson: *Jeremiah 18:1-11*  p. 881 in the pew Bible

The Psalter Lesson: *Psalm 139:1-6,13-18*  p. 710 in the pew Bible

The Anthem  
*Psalm 139*  
Allen Pote

> Lord, you have searched me and known me, You know everything I do.  
> When I rise up, when I lie down, you are with me through and through.  
> Before a word is on my tongue, you know what I will say,  
> your presence follows me day by day.  
> Where can I flee from your spirit? Where can I go to run away?  
> If I go to heaven, or live in hell, you are there.  
> Search me, O God, and know me, Try me and know my heart.  
> See if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Amen.


A Moment with the Children

*The Hymn 769*

*For Everyone Born*

For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
for woman and man, a system that’s fair, REFRAIN  
For young and for old, a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for young and for old, the right to belong, REFRAIN  
For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free, REFRAIN

The Epistle Lesson: *Philemon 1-21*  p. 263 in the pew Bible

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon  
Bruce Smith

**TO RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD. . .**

*The Apostles’ Creed*  p. 35 in the Hymnal

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the People  
The Lord’s Prayer  p. 35 in the Hymnal

> 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD'S NAME. . .

*The Hymn 223

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

*The Charge & Benediction

*Postlude

Prelude in D Major

J.K.F Fischer

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When I Survey the Wondrous Cross – Text: Isaac Watts, 1707; Public Domain
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Living In Faith Together (LIFT) on Sunday mornings between worship services is a time for faith formation through education, community, and collaboration. The goal of LIFT is to support and nurture lifelong maturing in Christian faith by integrating three main objectives:

1. Knowing and understanding more fully the Christian faith (informing)
2. Developing and deepening a relationship with Jesus Christ and the Christian community (forming)
3. Living the Christian faith in every aspect of our lives (transforming)

Informing, forming, and transforming happens when we come together – in both multi-generational groups and peer groups, in-person and online, with long-time friends and people we just met. See you at LIFT!

ALL-AGES LIFT
October 2, November 6, & December 4

On the first Sunday of each month, rather than separating by age and interest, all members and visitors are invited to gather together for a time of fellowship, fun, and faith formation. All-Ages LIFT offers a unique opportunity to listen, learn, and develop relationships within the diversity of the ages and experiences of our congregational family.

CHILDREN’S LIFT Classes
Education building

Nursery is provided during worship and LIFT hours for newborns and toddlers, ages 0-2. Both baby and crawler nursery rooms are located on the 1st floor of the Education Building.

Ages 3yrs.-5th grade – 9:50am-10:45am  Classrooms are located on the 2nd Floor of the Education building. Children will be divided into 3 classes based on age/grad.

Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living, a new PCUSA curriculum we are using this year, is based on practices Jesus did and taught us to do as faithful followers. This curriculum examines where these practices are found in the Bible and how they have been used in Christian faith then and now.

Covenant Choir: ages 3yrs – 5th grade – 9:30am-9:50am in the music room on the 2nd Floor of the Education Building. Prior to the Children’s LIFT classes, Mrs. Casey will meet with the children for a time of musical learning and fun. All children are invited to this time of multi-age joyful “noise.”
YOUTH LIFT Music

Youth Music with Mrs. Casey – 6th-12th grades; Sanctuary Balcony, 9:50-10:45am
A Youth Handbell Ensemble is being organized and will rehearse during the LIFT Hour. Choir activities will be included to encourage confidence and vocal development during this crucial age period. A strong emphasis will be placed on fellowship through music making and participation in the worship experience.

ADULT & YOUTH LIFT Classes

The Flawed Family of God: Stories about the Imperfect Families in Genesis (available from Amazon) ~ Book study led by Amy & Trey Talmadge and Rev. Michelle Abel
The best stories in the book of Genesis involve families. The issues these stories raise—married vs. single life, sibling rivalry, infertility, family relocation, blended families, and the like—are startlingly relevant to families of today. This Bible study examines the families of Genesis, starting with how the Adam and Eve story encompasses far more ways of being family- including singleness- than most of us think. It looks at the sibling rivalry of the Cain and Abel story, pointing to the jealousy and violence to which the whole human family seems addicted. It shows us how the ups and downs of the relationship between Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, and Ishmael can help us understand the complicated dynamic of blended families.
Location: 1st Floor Middle House

Faith & Movies: Coordinated by Michael Lehr & John Statler
Do you like to watch movies--both old favorites and unfamiliar titles? If you like to discuss the stories and themes in movies, and relate them to our sacred stories and faith, this class is for you. Class participants choose a movie for everyone to watch during the week and then lead the discussion in class.
Location: Church House Parlor

Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding - this series of biblically based short-term courses provide a foundational understanding of the Reformed faith through Scripture, prayer, in-depth commentary, and questions for reflection. Two sessions offered:
September 18 - October 30: The Apostles’ Creed
November 13 - December 18: TBD
Led by Tom Wimberley and Eric Snader
Led by Jim Christie
Location: Conference Room and Zoom

Living the Lectionary: Coordinated by Jen Rowe
More than just prescribed portions of scripture we hear from the pulpit every Sunday, the lectionary is meant to be a path of understanding, a guide for both pastor and congregation through the whole counsel of God. Using the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday, class participants will share together how these particular texts shape and direct our personal and corporate journeys of faith.
Location: Undercroft
Blessed

Life is a gift. So too are breath, heartbeat, laughter, tears, hugs, shouts of joy, and moments of deep loss. Isn’t it odd that when we come to the most human and universal experiences, we can either ignore, or celebrate the presence of God from whom all blessings flow? Thin places, the Celtic Christians called them when the eternal and the temporal quite nearly touch, when God is moving and present amongst and with us. Think of the birth of a baby, or the death of an aged parent or grandparent. -- You may have guessed I am thinking of retirement after a full and exhilarating pastorate.

Blessing is the language we have used to convey the lasting presence of the Sovereign God who is over all creation and yet as near as our pulse. An excellent theologian wrote, if you give me your blessing, you irreversibly convey into my life not just something of the beneficent power and vitality of who you are, but something also of the life-giving power of God, in whose name the blessing is given.

More than just conveying a warm greeting or friendly sentiment, a blessing reframes our relationship in light of God’s steadfast love. It is indelible. It claims and transforms. It redeems and sanctifies. It is a means of grace.

Serving as your pastor has brought my family and me more blessings than we can ever count. And I will continue to pray that the blessing of our Loving Lord Jesus Christ may bloom and grow in your heart and life now and always. — May God bless you, one and all!

Fondly,
Allen

“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20)
Fellowship!!

Fall marks the start of a new opportunity to gather in Fellowship! Starting October 2, through November 20, 2022, all are invited to enjoy “Sunday lunch” in the Fellowship Hall following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Come and share a casual lunch with old friends and new.

Groups or individuals interested in preparing a light lunch, please contact Trina Parsons 865-386-1988 (tkp76@icloud.com), or Sharon Humes 540-226-9771 (pshumes1@gmail.com).

Mark your calendars, and be on the lookout for more information coming soon.

Music at the Presbyterian Church

The music ministry offers opportunities for all ages and we encourage you to participate whether you are experienced or an interested novice. We have exciting plans for the coming months and hope you will consider becoming part of this fellowship.

Covenant Choir - 4yrs.-5th grade: Children will meet with Mrs. Casey in the music room on the second floor of the Education building from 9:30-9:50 on Sunday mornings.

Youth Music - 6th-12th grade: Teens will meet with Mrs. Casey in the Sanctuary balcony for Youth Handbell Ensemble and choral activities to develop musical skills and confidence in worship participation from 9:50-10:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

The Jubilate Ringers: This is an adult ensemble and basic music reading skills are helpful. Ringers meet on Thursdays in the Sanctuary balcony from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Adult Choir: Adults with interest in joining this special fellowship will be enthusiastically welcomed. Music reading skills or choral experience are not necessary only a desire use your voice in worship. The choir meets on Thursdays in the Adult Choir Room below the Sanctuary from 7:30-8:45 p.m.

Join us for our Youth Kick-off, on September 11, from 12:00-1:30 p.m. as we welcome back returning members as well as welcoming our class of rising 6th graders. We will have lunch together starting at 12:00 prior to Youth Group. During our kick-off youth group, we will take a little bit of time to talk about what our Youth program will look like this year and play lots of fun games! If you are interested in volunteering in our Youth program, or would be interested in helping provide a meal or two for our Youth during the month of September, please let Eric know. We look forward to seeing you again in a few weeks!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who signed up to donate blood on August 23. Because of your generosity and dedication to helping others we were able to collect 40 pints of blood. That’s pretty amazing when you consider that each one of these pints can help to save three lives!

And a special thank you to Mike Fariss, Ann Warner and Trina Parsons who verified appointments, logged in donors, answered questions, and refilled the refreshment table with drinks and snacks. The generous gift of your time and heart was greatly appreciated.

Looking forward to our next Blood Drive on January 24.

Linda Benn