

**August 24, 2025**  
**11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Montevallo Presbyterian Church**

Prelude            Be Thou My Vision (arr. By Richard Kingsmore)  
Magnus Eck

Welcome and Invitation to Worship

Introit #439 Oh My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer (Psalm 103)  
(Text: The Book of Psalms/Music: Witt's Psalmodia Sacra.)

Call to Worship                      Carole Chomicz                      Psalm 100

Shout joy to the Lord, all earth,  
serve the Lord with gladness,  
enter God's presence with joy!

**Know that the Lord is God,  
our maker to whom we belong,  
our shepherd, and we the flock.**

Enter the temple gates,  
the courtyard with thanks and praise;  
give thanks and bless God's name.

**Indeed the Lord is good!  
God's love is for ever,  
faithful from age to age.**

Opening Prayer

Hymn                    #33 “Praise the Lord! God’s Glories Show”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession        *adapted from the Church of Scotland*

**God of life, grant us your forgiveness.  
 For we have been heedless in our thoughts,  
 cruel in our words, harmful in our actions.  
 We are indifferent to a world made sad  
 by want and wastefulness;  
 we pass by on the other side  
 when we see our neighbor in need;  
 in word and deed,  
 we wander from the way that leads to peace.  
 God of life, grant us your forgiveness.**

The Assurance of God’s Forgiveness

Musical Response #646 “Sing Out, My Soul”

***Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul.  
 Sing out and glorify the Lord who sets us free.  
 Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul.  
 Sing out and glorify the Lord God!***

The Peace

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

## Proverbs 18:1-21 NRSV/UE

- [1] The one who lives alone is self-indulgent,  
showing contempt for all sound judgment.
- [2] A fool takes no pleasure in understanding,  
but only in expressing personal opinion.
- [3] When wickedness comes, contempt comes also,  
and with dishonor comes disgrace.
- [4] The words of the mouth are deep waters;  
the fountain of wisdom is a gushing stream.
- [5] It is not right to be partial to the guilty  
or to subvert the innocent in judgement.
- [6] A fool's lips bring strife,  
and a fool's mouth invites a flogging.
- [7] The mouths of fools are their ruin,  
and their lips a snare to themselves.
- [8] The words of the whisperer are like delicious morsels;  
they go down into the inner parts of the body.
- [9] One who is slack in work is close kin to the vandal.
- [10] The name of the LORD is a strong tower;  
the righteous run into it and are safe.
- [11] The wealth of the rich is their strong city;  
in their imagination it is like a high wall.
- [12] Before destruction one's heart is haughty,  
but humility goes before honor.
- [13] If one gives answer before hearing,  
it is folly and shame.
- [14] The human spirit will endure sickness,  
but a broken spirit—who can bear?
- [15] An intelligent mind acquires knowledge  
and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

- [16] A gift opens doors;  
it gives access to the great.
- [17] The one who first states a case seems right,  
until the other comes and cross-examines.
- [18] Casting the lot puts an end to disputes  
and decides between powerful contenders.
- [19] An ally offended is stronger than a city;  
such quarreling is like the bars of a castle.
- [20] From the fruit of the mouth one's stomach is satisfied;  
the yield of the lips brings satisfaction.
- [21] Death and life are in the power of the tongue,  
and those who love it will eat its fruits.

The Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

<u>Psalm</u>	Psalm 103	ICEL
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- [1] My soul, bless the Lord,  
bless God's holy name!
- [2] **My soul, bless the Lord,  
hold dear all God's gifts!**
- [3] Bless God, who forgives your sin  
and heals every illness,
- [4] who snatches you from death  
and enfolds you with tender care,
- [5] **who fills your life with richness  
and gives you an eagle's strength.**

[6] The Lord, who works justice  
and defends the oppressed,

**[7] teaches Moses and Israel  
divine ways and deeds.**

[8] The Lord is tender and caring,  
slow to anger, rich in love.

**[9] God will not accuse us long,  
nor brings our sins to trial,**

**[10] nor exact from us in kind  
what our sins deserve.**

[11] As high as heaven above the earth,  
so great is God's love for believers.

**[12] As far as east from west,  
so God removes our sins.**

[21] Bless the Lord, you powers,  
eager to serve God's will.

**[22] Bless the Lord, you creatures,  
everywhere under God's rule.  
My soul, bless the Lord!**

Anthem            Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song            MPC Choir  
(Text and Music: Les Petites Soeurs de Jesus and L'Arche  
Community)

Second Scripture Reading            James 3    NRSV/UE

[1] Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and  
sisters, for you know that we who teach will face stricter judgment.

[2] For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is mature, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. [3] If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. [4] Or look at ships: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. [5] So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! [6] And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of life, and is itself set on fire by hell. [7] For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, [8] but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. [9] With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse people, made in the likeness of God. [10] From the same mouth comes a blessing and a curse. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. [11] Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? [12] Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

[13] Who is wise and knowledgeable among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. [14] But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be arrogant and lie about the truth. [15] This is not wisdom that comes down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. [16] For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. [17] But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or

hypocrisy. [18] And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

For the Word of God in scripture,  
for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us,  
**thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

“Use Your Words—Wisely”

The Rev. Dr. Sue Westfall

### Hymn

#450 “Be Thou My Vision”

### Announcements and Invitations to Discipleship

### Prayers of the People

### Offering

*Music:* Magnus Eck

*Music:* Come, Christians, Join to Sing (arr. By Mark Hayes)

### Doxology

“Praise God, Whose Image We All Bear”

(Tune: “All Creatures of Our God and King”)

***Praise God, whose image we all bear.***

***Praise Christ, whose mercy we all share.***

***Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***Praise Spirit making justice grow.***

***One God through whom all blessings flow.***

***Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

## The Sacrament of Communion

### The Invitation

### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
 Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, you made the creation to hum in harmony;  
 you listened and you called it good...

...Take our hearts, our lives, our hands—  
 mold us, change us, and send us out,  
 that we may be Christ's body in the world you love;  
 we pray for the sake of Jesus Christ,  
 in whose name we pray. Amen.

**Our Father who art in heaven...**

### The Communion of the People

*During the receiving of communion, the people may sing*  
*#507 "Come to the Table of Grace".*

### Prayer after Communion



A Time for Children

## “These Treasured Children”

***These treasured children present now  
are bound to us by sacred vow;  
with love, we make a heartfelt claim  
to welcome them in Jesus’ name.***

Charge and BlessingPostlude

“Show Us Christ in One Another”

(Tune: Beach Spring)

***Show us Christ in one another.  
Make us servants strong and true.  
Give us all your love of justice,  
so we do what you would do.  
Let us call all people holy.  
Let us pledge our lives anew.  
Make us one with all the lowly.  
Let us all be one in you.***