

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
3rd Sunday after Pentecost

June 21, 2020-11:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

You are invited to silently pray as you prepare to offer thanksgiving to God.

Most loving God, your holy Son has taught us that none of our concerns lie outside your love, and no person is ever irrelevant or dispensable. Teach us the way of quiet trust, that placing all our affairs in your hands, we may live faithfully and lovingly, allowing your Spirit to guide our feet in the way of your peace. Through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

GREETING

PSALM OF PRAISE (Psalm 86)

Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you; save your servant who trusts in you. You are my God; be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all day long. Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

VOLUNTARY

On Christ The Solid Rock I Stand
Melody Davis

John Mason

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 39 *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Do people hear Jesus' words of welcome and hope when we speak? Do they see the fresh Spirit acting in our lives? In these moments, we can come before God with honesty about how we live as God's children. Let us pray together, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace, you have made us in your image, but we don't always show your gracious face. We are called to follow the Christ, but often fatigued by the stresses of our lives. Have mercy on us. Forgive us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Here is the good news: God loves us, Christ redeems us, the Spirit calls us to service. Thanks be to God! Amen.

RESPONSE 582 *Glory To God Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

By the power of your Spirit, and through the gift of your holy Word, shine your searchlight, O God, into the deep recesses of our hearts and teach us to be both hearers and doers of your Word. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible*, page 16)

Genesis 21: 8-21

⁸The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. ¹⁰So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." ¹¹The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. ¹²But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. ¹³As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring."

¹⁴So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. ¹⁵When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. ¹⁶Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. ¹⁷And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. ¹⁸Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." ¹⁹Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. ²⁰God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. ²¹He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

ANTHEM

*Take Up Your Cross
Sanctuary Choir*

David Haas

NEW TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible*, page 10) Matthew 10: 24-33

²⁴"A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! ²⁶"So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²"Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my

Father in heaven; ³³but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

*HYMN 621 *I Will Call Upon the Lord*

SERMON

Intertwined

Sherry Holloman

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the *Iona Community*

We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female. We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of sorrows, he died forsaken. He descended into the earth to the place of death. On the third day he rose from the tomb. He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present, and his kingdom will come on earth. We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the church, spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of all, hear our prayers for the human family in its happiness or its distress. Gather us up into the reconciling fire of your love, that we may be purged of all that fosters misery, and grow into everything that creates love, joy and peace. You love justice and establish peace on earth. We bring before you the disunity of today's world: The absurd violence breaking the courage of the people of the world: human greed and injustice, which breed hatred and strife. Reconciling Christ, give hope to our efforts to bring about reconciliation. Give us the strength to persevere and the capacity to keep on loving. Give us the grace to be able to stand in the middle of situations, and to be a conduit for the deep listening which can lead to healing and forgiveness. Help us to conduct ourselves with dignity, giving and expecting respect, moving from prayer to action, and from action back again into prayer. Be present to those who are called to reconcile on a large-scale – politicians, world leaders, leaders of business, your Church, and those who stand in the midst of bitter conflict. Bless us and bless all who engage in the sacred work of envisioning new wholeness, and bringing people and nations together. Send Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth: Teach us to be compassionate towards the whole human family: Strengthen the will of all those who fight for justice and for peace; lead all nations into the path of peace, and give us that peace which the world cannot give, the peace of our Lord who prays with and for us, saying: **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.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

With gratitude to the God who is refreshment and renewal for our lives through Jesus Christ, we bring our tithes, offerings, our thanksgivings.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

It Is Well With My Soul
Sanctuary Choir

arr. John Ness Beck

*RESPONSE 708 *We Give Thee But Thine Own* (Verse 1)

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

By your grace, Lord, we are gifted beyond abundance, so may we use all of our gifts, but especially our material blessings, to bring joy, wonder, and peace to all around us. Take our gifts and use them so all may know of your hope for them. Amen.

GOING INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S WORD

* INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND BLESSING

We have been called to open our eyes to the abundance that God offers,
that may be right in front of us.

Called to open our eyes to the possibilities that faith-filled choices might bring to us.

Called to open our eyes to the ways in which we might follow God more closely –
at home, at work, at church, and in this community.

And as we do, we remember that we are not alone, and that we need not fear.
God, our Creator, Jesus our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit, our Encourager,
are with you, this day and every day.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 738 *O Master Let Me Walk with Thee*