

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
10th Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 2020-11:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

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

Give us the eyes to see in the simple, yet extraordinary things of this world, the risen Christ, and help us to be examples of that to one another. Hear our prayer. Amen

VOLUNTARY

*Let All Things Now Living
Melody Davis*

Gerald Knight

*OPENING HYMN 65 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

CALL TO CONFESSION

The God revealed to us in the pages of scripture is a welcoming and inclusive God who directs us to trust and not be afraid. As we seek to remove the barriers that threaten that trust, we come before God and one another in confession

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we confess that we do not always understand your ways. We are easily discouraged when life takes unexpected turns and our carefully laid plans and dreams come to nothing. We confess that we are quick to give up when things get difficult, and quick to question your presence and your power. Forgive us. Grant us patience to wait for your good timing. And then give us courage to step out in faith and obedience, trusting in your leading even when we cannot yet see the outcome. This is our prayer,

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Christ is the one who calls out to us in the storms of life and says, "It is I, do not be afraid." Trust that God is calling you, even when you cannot hear God's voice. Know that God loves you, even if you don't always feel loved. Know that you are forgiven, even if you don't always feel you deserve it. God loves you so much God has sent Jesus to the world, so that all of us might know God's love. Know this, and live.

RESPONSE 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shine on Me*

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

By the power of your Spirit, help us to obey your commandments through your Holy Word, and to please you in our intentions and in our actions. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

OLD TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible*, page 34)

Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28

This is the family story of Jacob who settled in the land of Canaan. In this story, we will hear Jacob also referred to as Israel. Jacob's son Joseph is seventeen and was helping his brothers shepherd the family flock. Like many family stories, there is a bit of tension. Jacob or Israel had two wives, and with those wives' sons also. For reasons unknown, Joseph spoke ill of these half brothers and it soon becomes apparent how much weight Joseph's opinion holds, he is after all, the beloved son of Jacob's old age. Enter the coat of many colors gifted from Jacob to Joseph, and the anger and jealousy of Joseph's brothers believing their father to love Joseph more than any of them.

Wanting to do away with Joseph, the brothers set at to Shechem to care for the flock, leaving Joseph behind. But, father Jacob sends him to meet up with his brothers. Joseph discovered they had moved even further away to Dothan, so off he went again. We pick up the story in verse 17:

So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. ¹⁹They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.” ²¹But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.” ²²Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him” —that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father.

²³So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; ²⁴and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. ²⁵Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. ²⁶Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers agreed. ²⁸When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

ANTHEM

O Lord, Increase My Faith
Sanctuary Choir

Orlando Gibbons

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

Matthew 14: 22-33

²²Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” ²⁸Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

*HYMN 743 *O God, You Are My God*

SERMON

Here's My Hand

Sherry Holloman

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Life seems to get crazy sometimes. We love the smooth times when all is well, but, O Lord, we have serious problems with wind and waves. We want you to “fill our sails with a lovely breeze that guides our little boats across the glassy sea”; but you know that life isn't just glassy seas and gentle breezes. Sometimes things get rough. Help us place our trust in you during all these rough times. You call to us to reach out, to take our focus off our own panic and place our trust in your love. Then you ask us to reach out to others with the same kind of love and compassion that you have given to us. Today we have come to you with burdens and cares. Our “seas” are not calm, but you offer to us a lifeline. Be with us. Guide our lives. Give us courage and hope. Strengthen us to truly be disciples of our Lord, who taught us to pray, 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 our lips, our lives, our treasures, it's faithful and good to proclaim the presence of God in the midst of all of life. May what we offer today bring about the love, the life, the hope and the healing given to us as a gift in Jesus Christ.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Precious Lord Take My Hand
Fred Watkins

*RESPONSE 605 *Praise to God the Father*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord, we come to you this day, seeking your healing and restoring love. Give us courage to reach out to you in the good and easy times as well as in the times of strain and stress. As we have given of our hearts, our resources, our lives, we pray your healing and restoring love be multiplied by these gifts. Amen

GOING INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S WORD

* INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND BENEDICTION

May God give us grace never to sell ourselves short!
Grace to risk something big for something good!

Grace to remember that the world is too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but love!

*CLOSING HYMN 8 *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*