

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
2nd Sunday after Pentecost

June 14, 2020-11:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

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

O God, we come in praise of all your goodness and lift our voices with thanks for your care. Amen.

GREETING

PSALM OF PRAISE (Psalm 100)

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

VOLUNTARY

Praising The Almighty
Melody Davis

Edward Broughton

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 49 *The God of Abraham Praise*

CALL TO CONFESSION

God's warm and generous invitation to forgiveness leads us as to confess our faults and trust in mercy. With our voices joined, we say together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, you know us completely and love us utterly. There is not a thought, feeling, word, action, memory or hope that you do not see and understand. Please forgive our sins and remove our shame, heal our dis-eases and redress our distortions; reinforce our faith and enlarge our love. Let all that is true, beautiful, and compassionate find a new lease of life in our character. For your name's sake. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

God deals faithfully and truly with us. Thanks be to God, in Jesus Christ, who chooses to forget our mistakes and forgive our sins.

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

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Most merciful God, because your love is for all, you call not only very gifted people but common folk like us to be Christ's disciples and to share the good news. May your Word that our ears hear this morning, produce actions from our hearts and hands every day. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible, page 14*)

Genesis 18: 1-15

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. ⁹They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ¹⁰Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" ¹³The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁵But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

ANTHEM

One Faith, One Hope, One God
Sanctuary Choir

Craig Courtney

NEW TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible, page 9*)

Matthew 9: 35-10:8

³⁵Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. ⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has

come near.’⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

*HYMN 462 *I Love to Tell the Story*

SERMON

Our Journey with God

Sherry Holloman

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from Psalm 23

You, O God, are our Shepherd. You provide everything we need. You let us rest in green meadows and lead us beside quiet streams. You renew our strength and guide us in ways that bring honor to Your name. Even when we walk through difficult valleys we will not fear, for you never are far away— protecting and comforting, guarding, and guiding every step we take. You prepare a feast for us in the presence of our enemies. You welcome us as friends and lavish your blessings on us. We know that your goodness and unfailing love will continue to pursue us all the days of our lives, and that after our lives here are over, we will spend eternity in your presence. This we believe. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Gentle Shepherd: Thank you for the ways you have led us to green pastures and still waters and shown us beauty that has fed our souls. The rising and setting of the sun reminds that each day we have been gifted with new mercies and new opportunities to live as your good people. We are living in tough times. Some of us have walked through dark valleys this week, and all of us know someone in a dark valley, valleys of sickness, grief, uncertainty, fear. You meet us there in the darkness, you protect us. Our enemies are present in our lives; forces that would take us away from you. Pride, envy, hatred, selfishness, all played out on an individual and corporate level. We need your help in our lives. Hear the new concerns of our hearts this day: we are grateful that Bettye’s grand daughter Katherine continues to heal following surgery. We ask your hand of calm and perseverance and peace for Drew. For Rick, we pray continued healing. For our world, our leaders, we pray wisdom to listen to and follow your will. For all who continue to keep us safe and well, first-responders, our armed forces, may the spirit of your presence rest upon them. For peace-filled conversations and resolutions that turn violence into voices of reason and compassion, we pray. For your church in all places, and for your church called Eastminster, guide us to be the disciples our Lord has commissioned us to be in a hurting world. You have heard unspoken concerns which weight too heavily for us to share. We call on you for help; and, you guide us carefully. For the gift of grace through our Lord and the provision of blessings over and over, the well of encouragement and the strength to continue when we falter, thank you. Your goodness and mercy are following us all the days of our lives and so we give thanks for this good life, for life and breath this day, and we pray the blessing of your living Spirit breathed into all persons this and every day. Hear now as we offer our thanksgiving with the prayer of our Lord’s teaching: **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

May our gifts this morning be offerings of our minds for understanding; our hands, eyes, and voices for service, and our hearts for love.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*Go Forth Into The World In Peace
Sanctuary Choir*

John Rutter

*RESPONSE 605 *Praise to God the Father*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

You urge us to travel lightly and proclaim your peace. Relieve us of whatever hinders our mission and give to us strength for the journey. The gifts we offer are symbols of our commitment. May they foster peace, heal divisions and provide hospitality in the name of our Lord. Amen.

GOING INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S WORD

* INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND BENEDICTION

God, who created all things, seeks for all to be in communion with one another. Jesus, who shepherds us, has commissioned us to go out into the highways and byways inviting all to be part of God's work in the world. The Holy Spirit, who leads and guides us in the world, touches lives around us in ways that make them receptive to love. Many lives need to receive that love and many of us need to respond.

May the love of God enfold us,
the wisdom of Jesus enlighten us,
the fire of the Spirit inflame us
as go into the world to continue the Lord's work! Amen

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 700 *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*