

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
11th Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2020-11:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

VOLUNTARY

Joy in My Heart
Melody Davis

George W. Cooke

*OPENING HYMN 610 *O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Our Lord swept away centuries of prejudice and legalism when he reached out and accepted people. Trusting that he still accepts us, let us confess our failure to often do as he has done for us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We know in our hearts that discipleship demands a new way of seeing people as you did, but the journey from heart to eyes, to hands and to feet can be long and difficult. We pray your forgiveness Lord when we fail. As people who have received your mercy over and over, may we be as merciful and as compassionate as you in all we say and do in your name. Amen

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

For where can we go from God's Spirit? Where can we flee from God's presence? There is no place we can be rejected, no place we can be forgotten from the love of Christ. We belong to God, and in God we find strength to continue on the journey of faith. We are forgiven, renewed and restored. Amen.

RESPONSE 581 *Glory Be to the Father*

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of wisdom and insight, by the power of your Spirit and the gift of your holy Word, grant us the courage to reflect your image with all those around us. In the name of Christ, our Savior, we pray all things. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible*, page 42)

Genesis 45: 1-15

because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay.¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.¹²And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you.¹³You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Joseph urges them once again to bring his father. Together they wept and began talking with one another again.

ANTHEM

Lord, My God, Hear Thou My Pleading
Michele Pappas and Sanctuary Choir

Arr. Lloyd Pfausch

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon."²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us."²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."²⁶He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

*HYMN 469 *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

SERMON

Come Closer

Sherry Holloman

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *The Iona Community in Scotland*

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's womb, servant of the poor. He was 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 life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Open our hearts, Lord, in the spirit of prayer conversation. Smooth the furrows of our anxious brows, relax the line of worry in our faces, lighten the loads of our hearts, relieve the doubts of our minds and calm the fears of our souls. Make us one with you in peace. We ask first that you hear our prayers of thanksgiving:

For the grace and peace you alone can give; for forgiveness, renewal, unmerited love, patience, kindness, mercy...all given without measure; for quieting the turmoil with us; for your assurances of pardon, your provision of needs your providential care.

And like this woman the world called an outsider, we pray...Help us, God. Help us to trust your will for our lives. Challenge and guide us to respond faithfully to your call upon our lives. And we ask, merciful God, that you look upon your whole human family with compassion. Prod us and teach us how to rid the hearts of people, of nations...of arrogance, divisions, hatred.

For our own family, friends and family families who face the frustrations and trials of every day living in a real way, we lift their names before you now and ask your surrounding presence with them.

We offer you our thanksgiving for courage when we are afraid; guidance when we don't know what to do; a cheerful heart when we are discouraged; comfort when life brings us sorrow. May your love and peace remain so strong that nothing may take away the joy of salvation that we find in our Lord and Savior, 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

God is like a good shepherd who loves us and takes care of us. The best way we can say thank you is sharing God's love with others and helping God take care of each other. How will you say, "Thank you, God?"

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Alleluia, Praise the Lord (from Gospel Mass)
Sanctuary Choir

Robert Ray

*RESPONSE 606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thank you God for blessings big and small, from our homes to our safety, you provide it all. Today is the perfect time to say thank you, and to share the love that you give people everywhere. Help us to remember to be thankful for your love and care, not just today, but every day of the year. Amen

GOING INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S WORD

* INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND BENEDICTION

May we be renewed by God's mercy, loved by Jesus,
and enabled the power of the Spirit to transform our lives,
and then, may we be made agents of God's mercy,
channels of Jesus' love and transformers of lives by the power of the Spirit. Amen

*CLOSING HYMN 306 *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*