

Eastminster Presbyterian Church  
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2020-11:00 a.m.

### GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

*You are invited to silently pray as you prepare to offer thanksgiving to God.*  
**Loving God prepare our hearts to offer our thanksgiving from a joyful heart. Amen**

VOLUNTARY

*Minuet 1, Suite 1*  
*Vilma Prequero, Cello Melody Davis, Piano*

J.S. Bach

\*OPENING HYMN 321 *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Together may we confess there are times when our actions and our words seem to be more conformed to the values of this age than doing God's will. In our confessing, may our hearts and minds be transformed. Join me as we pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Forgive us when we believe that our faith experience is superior to the way others have come to faith, failing to recognize and share the humility that life in Christ possesses. Forgive us when we exclude people from our fellowship through our prejudice and discrimination, failing to recognize and share the love that life in Christ imparts. Transform us so that we, who are one body in Christ, will delight in sharing the gifts given us, gifts for the building up of this community of faith and the communities in which we live and work and pray. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Praise be to God, who, in Jesus forgives us, who commissions us and provides for us, who gives us a holy task and the resources to perform it faithfully.

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

### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dear Lord, thank you for giving us the Bible to help teach us how to love you and to love others. Amen

EPISTLE READING (*Pew Bible*, page161)

Romans 12: 1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. <sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

ANTHEM

*Upon This Rock*  
*Katie Karlen and Fred Watkins, Soloists; Melody Davis, Drums*

Pepper Choplin

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup>And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup>He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

\*HYMN 353 *My Hope is Built*

SERMON

Sherry Holloman

### RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

inspired by 1 John

**We believe in God the Father, who reveals his love to us in Christ.**

**We believe in God the Son, who pours out God's Holy Spirit on us.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who teaches us God's truth.**

**We believe in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

God of hope, we pray for ourselves. We pray for our friends and families; we pray for our communities; we pray for our country. We pray that the rhetoric of division that surrounds us will not claim us. But we feel it. We really feel it. So many are angry with, and suspicious of, each other. Deep down, we are afraid. In the face of all the yelling and sniping and sneering, we appeal to you, God who can calm the storm, asking for strength and grace and courage. Call to our hearts. Beckon to our better angels. Hold healthy alternatives before us. Every day. Send your spirit of love and justice and peace to us. Every day. We pray for those who are sick. We pray for those who are worried and tired. We pray that your healing powers would descend on those who struggle like cool rain. We pray that your strength would fill people’s wounded spirits and lift them like eagles on the wing. Please, Holy One, stand alongside those who grieve the loss of a loved one. Surround them with friendship and deep compassion. Be as real to us as a big old oak tree—that holds a body easily when you lean against it. We pray for our schools, for teachers, principals, school nurses, students, and parents. These people are working tirelessly figuring out how to make school happen in safe, supportive, and creative ways. Guide and sustain those planning for school. Give us patience. Pinch out the fuse on our tempers. Do not let our rage get the better of us. This is an imperfect time, God. It is a messy time. It is a chaotic time. Help us to see beyond our long list of frustrations to... YOU. Give us comfort in the beauty of the world. Give us perspective in the grace of the arts. Give us joy in the gift of dear friends. Give us glimpses of YOU... And in spotting you... Help us to find clear wisdom and hope for the living of these days. All this we pray, mingling our voices with the voice of Jesus, who prayed with steady trust, 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

The gospel of Matthew tells us whatever we bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever we loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. May we offer the many gifts we have received, returning them for God’s purposes.

OFFERTORY

*Many Gifts*  
*Sanctuary Choir*

Allen Pote

\*RESPONSE 602 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Loving God, receive and bless these gifts which we offer in response to the many gifts you have given to us. Strengthen us with the Holy Spirit that we may graciously serve others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, and our Savior. Amen

**GOING INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S WORD**

\* INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND BENEDICTION

Go now with the assurance that God has you in mind;

God values you and knows your potential.

Live this day knowing that God has something for you;

God is making a difference through you.

\*CLOSING HYMN 697 *Take My Life and Let It Be*