

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
14th Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2020-11:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

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

Lord, we offer you this and every day, our thanksgiving in the things we say and do. Amen

As we offer our thanksgiving to God, we are called to bring our full selves: our simplicity, our complexity, our joy, our sadness, our vigilance, our apathy, our hopes, and our fears. And in the midst of our own stories, we come to be found in God's story: a God who welcomes and loves us all beyond measure. We worship as invited ones, as beloved ones, as blessed ones. We worship as individuals, yet God unites us as one. In the name of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, welcome to Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Dallas!

If you view this video prior to 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, the 6th, it is with joy, we invite you to come share communion with us from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the church located at 6550 Samuell Boulevard. All persons serving communion and helping in other ways will be wearing masks and gloves, and the communion elements are factory sealed. For those worshipping at any other time, we invite you to commune with us from your own homes. Remember always, wherever we are, the Lord is.

As we are called to be Christ to one another, we are also called to pray with and for each other.

*Continuing prayer for Tom and Sylvia Falcon. Prayers for Tom as he seeks strength and wisdom to make the best decisions for Sylvia, and prayers for Sylvia as she continues to improve in rehab, and looks to the day she can return home.

*Prayers for Janet Muller as she continues her work as a nurse, even with back pain. We ask extra prayers on September 18 as Janet receives a procedure on her back.

*Lewis and Vicki Thiebaud remain in our prayers as Lewis continues infusions for cancer, and for both he and Vicki, we ask the Lord's comfort, strength and healing.

*We keep Doyle Oliver in our prayers, asking for comfort and healing in the face of cancer.

*Our prayers for Jenelle Symns as she continues to feel the effects of congestive heart failure.

*We keep Ken and Jennifer (Garrett) Benson in prayer as they are both health workers, and at risk with some personal health issues. Prayers for their comfort, peace, and some increased energy as they have welcomed a new puppy into their home and lives.

*Prayers for Sam Burgess, Blair and Cindy Garrett's nephew, as he faces medical illnesses and the emotional stress of unemployment. May his spirits be lifted and work be found.

*Our prayers are offered for Wilma Trotter, Cindy Garrett's mother, asking for the strength and encouragement to attend rehab sessions that can improve COPD and circulation.

*Robert Banks, a relative of Jim Lee's, is lifted up in prayer as he is receiving chemo treatments for pancreatic cancer.

*Prayers for Joseph, friend of Jo Byrd, as he seeks answers and relief from a possible kidney stone.

*Prayers for healing for Bobbie Ligon who has been diagnosed with cancer, and is a friend to Jan Anderson

*Virginia Russell, 92 years old, who has fallen and broken a hip. May the medicines give her the strength she needs for undergo hip surgery.

*Prayer for Vernon Wells who suffered a stroke and is currently in rehab.

*For Shirley, a friend of the church, being treated for cancer and also battling pneumonia; we pray for recovery and healing.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

*We give thanksgiving for the retirement and relocation to Houston for Wendy, a friend of Vick Cook's. May she find joy and peace closer to her siblings.

*Danielle Duhon, who has made some positive, forward-moving changes in life, we pray wisdom, discernment and employment for her.

*Prayers of thanksgiving for Graham's new employment, and prayers of wisdom for dealing with health risks.

*Prayers of thanksgiving for Craig's and Donna's successful closing on a rent house and the possibility of a tenant.

Lord, for those names we have heard and those names upon our hearts, hear our prayer, and by the power of your Spirit, guide your Church, and this congregation, your world and your peoples by your goodness and mercy! 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. Amen.

PSALM OF PRAISE (Psalm 149)

Come, let us praise God together! Sing a new song—a song of God's goodness and mercy, faithfulness and love. For God delights in His people, crowning them with honor and glory! Let's worship together.

VOLUNTARY

Sonata #1 in E Minor

Bernard Romberg

Cellists: Patricia Briggs, Vincent Raminex Boyce, Carlos Vargas, and Maggie Wallace

*OPENING HYMN 511 *Come, Behold the Feast of Heaven*

CALL TO CONFESSION

We are God's people--two and three and more gathered. It is with confidence that we can confess our sin, finding peace in the presence of our Lord and trusting in the forgiving Spirit already among us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are your Church, Jesus, but sometimes we fail to believe it. We are your Body, Jesus, but sometimes we fail to act like it. We are messengers of your good news, Jesus, but sometimes it is easier to carry bad news, or no news. Forgive us when we fail to be who you created us to be, and act how you have called us to act. Teach us to live, and to love, as your presence in this world. For Christ's sake, this is our prayer. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Gathered as God's people, we hear the good news: in Jesus Christ, God has forgiven us, has made us whole, and sends us out into the world to be witnesses to that good news. Thanks be to God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

We pray this morning for the ability to hear your message, for the insight to understand it, and for the courage to live it. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

EPISTLE READING (*Pew Bible, page 162*)

Romans 13: 8-12

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself."¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

ANTHEM

*Sure Foundation
Sanctuary Choir*

Jim Lucas

NEW TESTAMENT READING(*Pew Bible, page 20*)

Matthew 18: 15-20

¹⁵"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses.¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

*HYMN 203 *Jesu, Jesus*

SERMON

Uh Oh, This Is a Really Big Responsibility! Sherry Holloman

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The love of God binds us together in ways we could never achieve on our own. For all of the gracious acts of God in our lives, may we offer our gifts and the service of our life as signs of our gratitude and willingness to make our Lord's love known to neighbor, near and far.

OFFERTORY

*In You, We are One
Melody Davis*

Jay Althouse

*RESPONSE 506 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us. In the upside down world of the gospel, we measure our wealth not by what we have, but what we can give away. Let us give away generously, in this offering, to bless your church, your people, your creation. Amen

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*THE INVITATION

This is the Lord's table spread for broken people, not perfect people, but for those whose lives are fragmented, crushed, utterly reliant upon God's grace in Jesus Christ. Come to this table, then, not because you are able, but because our Lord is able to raise us up and hold us fast even when all falls apart around us.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We wholeheartedly give you our thanks and praise, O God. You revealed the depth of your compassion and love when you responded to the suffering of your people. In a wondrous encounter, you, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, empowered Moses to lead your people to freedom. Through him, you taught them your ways of justice. When the people strayed from your ways, you sent the prophets to guide them back to your paths of righteousness and peace. When their words went unheeded, you revealed yourself once more in a wondrous way; by breaking into our history in the person of Jesus Christ. And so, with all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name singing:

*RESPONSE 552 *Holy, Holy, Holy*

In the fullness of time, you gave us your Son Jesus Christ, to be for us the way, the truth, and the life. He proclaimed justice to all peoples, good news to the poor, release to the captives, sight for the blind, and liberty for those who are oppressed. He emptied himself of self-serving power, and filled with your Spirit, he loved people to the uttermost limits of love. On that never-to-be-forgotten night, the night of his betrayal, Jesus knew that his hour had come, and having loved his own who were in the world he loved them to the end; at supper with them, he washed the disciples' feet and gave them the new commandment: "... love one another as I have loved you." We remember the sacrifice of our Lord even as we proclaim the great mystery of our faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection and his promise to be with us always, we ask that you breathe your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine, that through them, we may be nourished by the life of Christ and strengthened to make that life visible through our faithful witness in the world.

RESPONSE 518 *Lamb of God*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We praise you today for the works of your hands, the wonders of our created universe. We thank you for this beautiful earth that we live upon. We thank you for the creative gift in each of us, to build and create, to teach and to learn. We thank you for all those who work in our community, for all those who work hard for their families. On this Labor Day, we remember all those who have made our towns and cities, our communities and our country great—for those that work in factories to those that work caring for children, for those that work as leaders and teachers and those that work as students and researchers. We remember all who work to build a better community for us all, and we thank you for your creative gifts in each of us. May we have a day of rest to remember you as our Creator, who also rested after you finished your work. On this day, as we gather in worship and prayer, may we remember all who work for your kingdom, that all of us are builders, and may we

do our part to participate in the building up of your reign, on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. Great Creator, we praise you today for the works of your hands, the wonders of our created universe. We thank you for this beautiful earth that we live upon. We thank you for the creative gift in each of us, to build and create, to teach and to learn. We thank you for all those who work in our community, for all those who work hard for their families. On this Labor Day, we remember all those who have made our towns and cities, our communities and our country great—for those that work in factories to those that work caring for children, for those that work as leaders and teachers and those that work as students and researchers. We remember all who work to build a better community for us all, and we thank you for your creative gifts in each of us. May we have a day of rest to remember you as our Creator, who also rested after you finished your work. On this day, as we gather in worship and prayer, may we remember all who work for your kingdom, that all of us are builders, and may we do our part to participate in the building up of your reign, on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus' name we pray...**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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND BREAKING OF THE BREAD

As he sat at the table with his friends, he took bread, gave you thanks, broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you." When supper was over, he took the cup, gave you thanks, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this all of you; this is my blood, poured out for you and for all, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENT

This sacrament is not the possession of this congregation nor of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) All persons are invited and encouraged to receive this sacrament. The Lord welcomes you. We welcome you. Before eating the bread and drinking the cup, you are invited to silently say this prayer:

***Fill me, Lord, with your grace,
for your good and for your glory. Amen.***

COMMUNION RESPONSE (LUYH 20) *Alleluia*

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, we give you thanks for refreshing and renewing us in this meal with the life of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. Strengthened by his life- the bread and cup of eternal life - we go from here to be eager witnesses of his word and willing followers of his way. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

GOING INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S WORD

* INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND BLESSING

Being human together can be hard. Be gentle with yourself. Be generous to others.

Love might require effort.

It might mean saying "no." It might include "I'm sorry," or "I don't know."

And when it comes down to it, loving your neighbor as yourself means paying attention to what you feel and need and, out of faithful-filled responsibility, offering the same to another person.

Go in God's love, loving and living as Christ so loved and lived.

Amen

*CLOSING HYMN 366 *Love's Divine, All Love's Excelling*