

Eastminster Presbyterian Church  
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2020-11:00 a.m.

**GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD**

**PRAYER:** Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light, and where there is sadness, joy. O, Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood, as to understand, to be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned. And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

**GREETING:** Joining my voice with the voice of all who worship at Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Dallas, we are glad you have joined us on this beautiful Lord's Day.

Speaking of instruments of peace, as St. Francis did in his prayer, so many times sitting across a table from someone offers a chance to reconcile. Next Sunday, October 4, from 10-10:45 a.m., we will sit gather around one of world's largest tables, the Lord's Table, and we will give thanksgiving and share the reconciling love of God through Jesus, as together we share Holy Communion. You can go to our website at [www.eastminsterdallas.org](http://www.eastminsterdallas.org) to find more information, as well as a registry form for the service. In addition to taking temperatures, masking up, social distancing, we are requiring registration to help ensure the number of worshipers can be safely distanced. Worshipers are asked to bring their own lawn chairs.

Before we gather on the 4<sup>th</sup> though, you have the wonderful opportunity on Saturday, the 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 10 to 11 am, to bring your pet or pets to our location at 6550 Samuell Blvd for a Blessing of the Animals. For so many, they are family, and what a joy to know your family...2 and 4 legged have been blessed.

As our prayers continue for all whose names have been mentioned over the last month, we ask continuing prayers this coming week for:

Janice Bell, who has been diagnosed with recurring cancer.

Gail Nixon and all of Will's family as they grieve the loss of Will.

The Crouse family at the loss of Dennis' grandmother, Betsy Ross Frix. At age 102, she was honored in the Waco newspapers for her many years of serving others and passed away just shy of her 104<sup>th</sup> birthday.

We keep Alice Brooks in our prayers as her health declines

For Bettye Clarke, we pray relief from pain.

We give thanksgiving for surgeries with positive results and continued recovery for Darlene West, Janet Muller, and Harry Karlen.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Exodus 17: 1-7

Come, all who thirst—come to the water! You who long for the water of life—come and drink! Dip your soul in the river of God’s goodness; quench your thirst at God’s well of grace. For God is here among us, offering living water to all who would drink! Let US worship God together!

**VOLUNTARY**

*Joyful, Joyful. We Adore Thee*  
*Melody Davis*

Beethoven

**\*OPENING HYMN 265 *Jesus Shall Reign***

**CALL TO CONFESSION:** In these moments of confession, our Lord encourages us to lay down our burdens, release our fears, let go of our failures, reclaim our hopes and align ourselves with his deep wisdom. May we do so, trusting in his forgiving grace.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:** Dear God, we humbly confess that misunderstandings and wrongdoings have mired us down, weakened our health, and dimmed our witness to your grace and power. Remind us again of the spiritual gifts you have given us – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Help us open ourselves to your holy breath that blow upon their embers and rekindles their fire within us. Help their light shine through us as a witness to Christ’s way to lasting peace and reconciliation. Hear our prayer. Amen

**ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS:** We celebrate the fact that through Jesus Christ “it is in pardoning that we are pardoned and in giving of ourselves that we receive...” so we say, Thanks be to God.

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

**PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:** God of life, of peace, of wonders that will not cease, by the power of your Spirit be present with us now in the hearing, understanding and living out of your Word. Amen.

**EPISTLE READING** (*Pew Bible*, page 197)

Philippians 2: 1-13

*The Epistle lesson for today comes from the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Philippians, verses 1-13. We learn that Paul continues to recommend ways that followers of Jesus Christ should live.*

*Specifically, the apostle emphasizes the need for unity: “be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.” With receptive hearts and minds, may we hear the Word of the Lord.*

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. <sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

ANTHEM

*Christus Factus Est (Christ Became Obedient)*  
*Sanctuary Choir*

Anton Bruckner

NEW TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible, page 23*)

Matthew 21:23-32

*In Matthew’s gospel, people keep asking Jesus questions. Many of them are queries meant to trap him, impress him or get something from him. But here in the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter of Matthew, verses 23-32, Jesus responds to a question about his authority with a question of his own, and then a parable to illustrate it. Hear now the Word of the Lord.*

23When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” 24Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. 25Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ 26But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” 27So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

28“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ 29He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. 30The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. 31Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going

into the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

\*HYMN (LUYH) 33 *He is Exalted*

SERMON

*Turning Around and Turning It Over*

Sherry Holloman

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from **Philippians 2: 5-11**

**We believe in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER:** Gracious and loving God, we come to you this morning desiring a change in our lives. We want to turn deeper into your ways. We want to walk more fully in your path. Turn us away from the distractions of the world to remember our part in your family, to bring healing and hope, love and forgiveness. Help us to be mindful of your ways in our daily lives, so that we might not forget the lost and least among us. For Janice, the Crouse family, we ask your healing Spirit with them. In the name of Christ who journeys with us now and forever, 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.

**OFFERTORY SENTENCE:** In compassion, God calls us into this family of faith. May we bring our gifts as expressions of our thanksgiving, with the prayer that, through them, others will be touched by the reconciling love of God in Jesus Christ. May we receive God's tithes and our offerings.

## PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*Ain'a That Good News*  
*Sanctuary Choir*

Arr. William Dawson

\*RESPONSE 605 *Praise to God the Father*

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: Receive our gifts as we seek to walk in your way. Where justice is sought, use these gifts to bring Christ's liberating word. Where there is pain, may they bring the healing of Christ's love in whose name we pray. Where there is joy, may we never forget to say, "Thank you!" Amen.**

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

#### **\*INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND BENEDICTION**

Go now with great confidence that the Spirit who has led you so far  
will continue to lead you into your future.

Stay alert to any new direction the Spirit might take you,  
and then go willingly, with delight in new discovery!

**\*CLOSING HYMN 697 *Take My Life***