

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

21st Sunday after Pentecost

2020-11:00 a.m.

October 25,

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

PRAYER: Lord, we give you our hands to do your work. We give you our feet to go your way. We give you our eyes to see as you see. We give you our tongues to speak your words. We give you our minds to think as you think. We give you my ourselves so that you may grow in us. In and through us, Lord, live, and move and be. Amen

GREETING: Hear these words of invitation: The hospitality of God knows no bounds. The love of God is immeasurable. The generosity and favor of God is beyond our wildest dreams. We worship together today as invited ones, as beloved ones, as blessed ones. We come as individuals, yet God unites us as one. So, welcome to worship at Eastminster Presbyterian Church this day! May we meet this God in new and surprising ways today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE ON NOVEMBER 1 AT 10:00 A.M.; STATED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO FOLLOW

In conjunction with the "Grace in Giving" stewardship campaign, this is the first notice for the Stated Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, November 1. The meeting will immediately follow a 10:00 a.m. outdoor worship service. The purposes of the meeting are as follows: to approve the Call of the Pastor; to receive the 2021 budget; to elect elders to the class of 2023; to elect two trustees, one for the class of 2023, and one to fulfill an unexpired term; and to elect three members from the congregation-at-large to the 2021 Nominating Committee.

The following names are presented for elders, trustees and congregational members-at-large:

Elders: Betty Crabtree, Blair Garrett, Jim Lee and Charlotte Turner; Trustees: Christine Blair and Vicki Cook; Congregational Members-at-Large to be announced.

The pastor, session and congregation offer thanksgiving to God for those whose call to serve as either an elder, trustee or part of the nominating committee comes to a close, changes or continues. We look forward to the new ways in which God will call you into service. Thank you elders, Janice Bell, Tony Bennett, Janet Muller and Bruce Turner; and trustees, Harry Karlen and Blair Garrett. And, a word of thank you to the 2020 Nominating Committee members: Kathy Kreger, Denise Bennett, Janet Muller, Chandra Anderson, Jim Lee, Charlotte Turner, Blair Garrett and Jan Anderson.

STEWARDSHIP: A word of thanksgiving to our Stewardship Committee, as they have worked faithfully and joyfully to remind us that during a time when so much has seemed impossible, God has continued to make all good things possible. So, with joy, we enter into our 2021 Stewardship Campaign, knowing that it is God who has given, is giving and will always give first, asking of us in return that we also grow in the grace of giving from grateful hearts. Our Stewardship Theme for 2021 is “Grace in Giving” as the Apostle Paul shares the message of God’s generosity in 2 Corinthians 8: 1-7. On Sunday, November 15, we will give thanksgiving to God and dedicate the generosity gifts of our hearts to the continuing mission and ministry of the Lord.

You will be receiving via email, the website and postal service for those without internet capabilities, this year’s stewardship information, including the letter from the Committee, the 2021 budget and Terms of Call for the Pastor, as well as a pledge card. You will also be able to access the time and talent form on the church website where you can preferably complete it online or print it and mail it to the office. Feel free to contact the office, the pastor or committee members with questions.

PRAYERS

*We give thanksgiving for the life of Bill Pitts and ask God’s comfort for LeaAnn and the family.

*We ask God’s healing hand on Barbara, a volunteer with the Pleasant Grove Food Pantry who was involved in an accident.

*We keep Janice Bell in prayer as her surgical procedure is scheduled for Monday.

*We remember all of our older members living in care facilities as COVID19 is on the rise again.

*For all our members and friends facing ongoing illnesses or who are in stages of recovery, we place them in God’s hands.

CALL TO WORSHIP: As we are called to worship, we remember that God is a God of all provision, so may we come today with gifts of tithes and offerings, so that our financial giving reflects not our bounty, but God’s. Uniquely and wonderfully crafted, each of us, may we come today with the gifts of our talents so that our creativity brings glory to God’s creating Spirit. For the one who is our Alpha and Omega, may we come this day with the gift of time, so that we may live as God’s people in every place, in every moment, from this day until our last. May our worship come from a very deep place of gratitude this day!

VOLUNTARY

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Melody Davis

*OPENING HYMN 806 *I’ll Praise My Maker*

CALL TO CONFESSION: Sinners we are and sinners we will always be, except for the God’s grace in giving us salvation through the gift of his only son, Jesus the Christ. Acknowledging

that in our sin we too often neglect and reject gifts that have been provided by God, let us confess together, trusting in the gift of forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: God of grace, you have called us to give ourselves completely to you. Yet, we often hold back part for worldly pursuits. You have given us the gift of time to serve, time to learn, time to grow, time to share. Yet, often we spend our time serving self. You provide us with opportunity to serve in numerous ways using the talents and abilities we have been given, but we tend to hide or hoard our gifts. You have provided even the least among us with more financial resources than most of the world; and, yet we still resist sharing because of fear for the future. You have provided us with a beautiful creation to enjoy and too many times we take it for granted. For all of the times and ways we have ignored the grace in your giving first to us, forgive us and move our hearts to be generous givers with grateful hearts. Amen

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS: While God knows our sin, God also hears our cries. In our sin, God still reaches out to forgive and restore us. Having confessed our sins, rejoice in the gift of forgiveness given to us through Christ and live in God’s love.

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

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: God, one of the great gifts that you have shared with us is your Word. Open our hearts and minds as the scriptures are read and the message is proclaimed. Help us to hear with anticipation what you have to say and give us a sense of urgency to share it with others. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Lamentations 3: 22-26

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

ANTHEM

Hope and Quietly Wait
Sanctuary Choir

Paul Radoi and Thad Fiscella

NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 Corinthians 8: 1-7

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to

us. So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

*HYMN 716 *God Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

SERMON

Grace of Giving

Sherry Holloman

Lamentations 3: 22-26 and 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: We believe in a giving God who is at work in our world turning hopeless and evil situations into good. We believe that goodness and justice will triumph in the end and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever. One day all tears will be wiped away; the lamb will lie down with the lion, and justice will roll down like a mighty stream. True peace and true reconciliation are not only desired, they are assured and guaranteed in Christ. This is our faith. This is our hope.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER: Ever-faithful Lord, ever-giving Son, ever-present Spirit, for the many gifts you grant us and the opportunity to enjoy these things; for your daily provision and for the constant signs of your healing love; for the hope amidst despair and the light which always shines; for all these things, 'thank you' is just so inadequate but we still share it to show our gratitude in word, in thought and in action. So thank you, Lord and may our thanks move beyond words to transform us into thankful folk, faithful folk, folk who see need and see the need to act, folk who love to live and live to love, folk who serve you by serving others. Help us to be amongst those who include the excluded and bring in those who are marginalized, that when the opportunities come our way to be healers of division and hurt, to be peacemakers and restorers, we won't be found wanting.

God of great giving, we bring before you those people and issues that are closest to us and that occupy our minds at this time ...for Bill Pitts family, for Barbara, for Janice, for our members and friends whose lives are still threatened by this virus, for our loved ones who are battling illnesses of mind, body or spirit. For all who have been healed, who have found peace, whose joy of living has been restored, our gratitude.

We bring before you people and issues from around our world, including those we'll never know personally but who remain our sisters and brothers in you. Holy and loving God, the mystery of elections and civics and citizenship is upon us. We understand that our loyalties, our citizenship, our priorities are shared between heaven and earth, between here and there, even as you taught us to pray, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,"

Help us in our love for freedom to produce the delight of freedom. Help us in the exercise of our citizenship to produce the delight of a great citizenship. Despite the inevitability of winners and losers, hold before us the wisdom of Solomon, to yearn to know right from wrong and choose the right.

Transforming, healing God, help us to make the light shine in dark places, to make peace known in violent places, to bring hope to despondent places, and with our gifts freely given do the work of your Kingdom. in the name of your Son, Jesus, 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 1 Timothy we read that God has provided us with all we need. Instead of seeking more things, then, we are urged to pursue the work of God, being generous and willing to share in order that all may have a fuller life. Today we receive God's tithes and our offerings.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Believer's Prayer
Sanctuary Choir

Joel Raney

*RESPONSE 708 *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: Generous God, you have given us so much, and you have rejoiced in sharing it with us. May the gifts we offer today be dedicated to your ministries: the work of justice, peace, mercy, healing, comfort, and compassion. We know that all we have to give has its source in you, and that we are only holding it for a time, to be used to your purposes. Thank you for the chance to be part of your mission. We rejoice as your generosity dances through us and out into service and sharing for all of your children. Amen.

GOING INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S WORD

*DISMISSAL AND BLESSING: Go out, among the outcast and the grieving, and speak the word of life and hope. Do not fear, but trust in God's word. Watch for the Lord with eager expectation, and be generous with all God has given you

And may God respond to our every cry with mercy;
may Christ Jesus take us by the hand and lift us to life;
and may the Holy Spirit build us up in faith, in speech,
..... in knowledge, in passion, in love and in the grace of giving.

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