

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2020-11:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER: In the name of our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, welcome to worship this Sunday at Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Dallas. If you are worshipping with us for the first time, we pray you feel the presence of the Spirit wherever you may be. For all worshipping with us, may this be a day where the Spirit speaks to your heart in such a way that you embrace the truth that you are a beloved child of God.

We continue our sermon series for our stewardship season, "Grace of Giving," built upon the foundation of 1 Corinthians 8: 1-7. Last week we were reminded of the extravagant generosity of Mary as she anointed the feet of Jesus. Today, we welcome Rev. Jessie Light-Wells as our guest preacher. Rev. Light-Wells is the Campus Minister for UKirk SMU, a new PC(USA) ministry. She grew up in Kansas City, attended Vanderbilt University and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and served at Preston Hollow Presbyterian prior to this call. She is passionate about college students, bread-making, and bike riding, and is married to Zach. We welcome her as she reminds us of this Biblical truth: it is more blessed to give than receive.

And a reminder that next Sunday, November 15 is Dedication Sunday. We plan, at this point, to have both a recorded service, an outdoor service, and weather not permitting, the ability to listen to worship from the comfort of your car in the church parking lot. We invite you to visit our website at www.eastminsterdallas.org for more information about sharing generously through your time, talent and financial resources.

And finally, you can find a recorded version of this service at our website, as well as copies of it and the liturgy. In the liturgy you will find our prayer joys and concerns. Please keep Elaine, Bruce's sister, in prayer. Remember the Parks/Holloman family in the loss of Sherry's sister, Cleta. And, most certainly, keep our country and our leaders close to heart.

Now, we turn our hearts and minds to God as we pray: Dear Lord, we come asking that you give us generous hearts, so that we may fully appreciate all your many blessings to us; that we may give without counting the cost; that we may share without expecting in return; that we may know the joy that comes from giving to others. We come asking for generous hearts that we may share all you have given us; that we may hold all your treasures in an open hand; that we may recognize our daily blessings; that we may learn the difference between what we need and what we want; and, that we may ever thank and serve you. We

pray, Lord, that we will know that in the blessing of giving, those receiving find joy. In the name of our Lord, we ask this. Amen.

VOLUNTARY

Sonata #1 In E Minor

Benard Romberg

Cello Ensemble

*OPENING HYMN 634 To God Be The Glory

CALL TO CONFESSION: The extravagant love of God instilled in our hearts ask of us to share that love. The more we save the less we are able to give. In the person of Jesus Christ, we know a generous heart, and yet we confess that a generous spirit does not always accompany our acts of giving. So, together we pray saying...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Our efforts to love you with heart, soul, mind, and strength often fall short. Our lack of trust in you hinders our ability to give ourselves completely to you. Too often we stubbornly deny that you know what is best for us. Our mindset of meagerness keeps us from loving our neighbors, and ourselves. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS: This is our assurance: God forgives us. This is our hope: God's love is everlasting. This is our truth: God is with us always. Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE 582 Glory To God Whose Goodness Shines On Me

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: Almighty God, your word is a treasure of wisdom and knowledge. Help us to hear the word, keep the word, and teach the word. Let it be as clear to us as if we are wearing it on our hands, writing it on our foreheads, and displaying it on our doorposts. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Proverbs 11: 24-26

Proverbs 11 contains thirty-one individual sayings. While the topics covered are vast, many contrast either proper behavior with improper behavior or the righteous with the wicked. The verses we hear this morning speak to how our hearts approach giving.

Some give freely, yet grow all the richer; others withhold what is due, and only suffer want. ²⁵ A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water. ²⁶ The people curse those who hold back grain, but a blessing is on the head of those who sell it.

ANTHEM

Make A Joyful Noise

Benjamin Harlan

Sanctuary Choir

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 20: 17-35

¹⁷ From Miletus he sent a message to Ephesus, asking the elders of the church to meet him. ¹⁸ When they came to him, he said to them: “You yourselves know how I lived among you the entire time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility and with tears, enduring the trials that came to me through the plots of the Jews. ²⁰ I did not shrink from doing anything helpful, proclaiming the message to you and teaching you publicly and from house to house, ²¹ as I testified to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus. ²² And now, as a captive to the Spirit,^[a] I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and persecutions are waiting for me. ²⁴ But I do not count my life of any value to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the good news of God’s grace. ²⁵ “And now I know that none of you, among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom, will ever see my face again. ²⁶ Therefore I declare to you this day that I am not responsible for the blood of any of you, ²⁷ for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. ²⁸ Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God^[b] that he obtained with the blood of his own Son.^[c] ²⁹ I know that after I have gone, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Some even from your own group will come distorting the truth in order to entice the disciples to follow them. ³¹ Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to warn everyone with tears. ³² And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified. ³³ I coveted no one’s silver or gold or clothing. ³⁴ You know for yourselves that I worked with my own hands to support myself and my companions. ³⁵ In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

SERMON

The Blessings In-Between

Rev.

Jessie Light-Wells

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: May we say together with our lips, what we believe in our hearts. 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:...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: We are made in the image of our abundant God. Into us God breathed spirit of generosity that is both a gift and a response. In thanksgiving may we be moved to give as we have received—abundantly, generously and joyfully blessed that we bear witness to the unfailing grace of our Triune God. May we receive God's tithes and our offerings.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY Credo: I Believe

Robert Ray, From *The Gospel Mass*

Katie Karten soloist, Melody Davis Piano, Sean Turner Bass, Tim Karlen drums

*RESPONSE 605 Praise To God The Father

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: God of great generosity, make us to think more of what we can give to life and less of what we can receive from it. May we be mindful that we hold our gifts, our talents, our possessions, our life itself, in trust for you and your world. Save us from thinking only of our own needs and desires; and help us to remember that it is more blessed to give than receive, according to the teaching of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. Amen

GOING INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S WORD

*DISMISSAL AND BENEDICTION

*CLOSING HYMN 306 Blest Be the Tie that Binds