



So the LAST
will be
FIRST
and the FIRST
LAST.

Matthew 20:1-16



Grace First

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working

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THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 20, 2020

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to worship at Grace First Presbyterian Church! We are currently worshipping online only. Our service follows the same format as in-person worship. In the next few weeks we will be transitioning from fully pre-recorded and edited services to live streaming our service. Please allow some grace for growing pains in this process. We pray that worship as a whole will invite you into deeper personal connection with God and empower you to live by the example of Jesus Christ, all while being guided by the Holy Spirit.

Prelude

Abbot's Leigh

“God Is Here!”

Call to Worship (Responsive)

We gather to worship God whose grace is overflowing.

We praise God whose generous love is for all people.

We celebrate the invitation to serve with our Lord Jesus Christ.

We rejoice in opportunities to labor in the vineyard of God's reign.

We seek God whose ways are mysterious and gracious beyond the fairness of the world's ways.

We worship God who remembers and loves us all; the first, the last, and everyone in between.

Prayer of Invocation

God of the wilderness, God of the journey, we are a pilgrim people. We are always on our way, and sometimes we lose our way. Thank you for bringing us from our various journeys to this holy place, to this sacred moment, and to this community of faith. Walk with us through our worship this morning. Feed us with the manna of your presence. Fill us with the beauty of music and the challenge of your word. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hymn 35

35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly
3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so
dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his
gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

This very strong 17th-century German hymn employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

TEXT: Joachim Neander, 1680; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.

MUSIC: Stralsund *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, 1665; harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863

LOBE DEN HERREN

14.14.4.7.8

Children's Moment The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz

Call to Confession

There is no greater joy in the heart of God than this moment now. For in this moment, we call upon God to grant us new life in the center of our wounded hearts. Let us come to God, just as we are, and seek God's grace as we join together in one voice and then in our own time of silent confession.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God, you call us friend even when we grumble. You pour your grace upon us in a never-ending stream even when we complain. And still we believe that somehow, we deserve your favor while we strongly protest when we hear that your grace extends to even those we deem unworthy. Forgive us our arrogance. Forgive us for not understanding that there is more than enough divine love and blessing for all. Help us to be unafraid to work and serve in the power of your grace.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Though the evidence against us is great, God's mercy and grace is greater. Listen to the promises of God. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer of Illumination

Holy God, we ask that as your word is opened and proclaimed this day that you would open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to hear your word, be challenged by your words and go forth proclaiming the Good News. Amen.

First Reading

Exodus 16:2-15

The word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God

Music Ministry

Clara H. Scott

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

Hymn Festival 2004

First United Methodist & Grace First Presbyterian

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth Thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for Thee,
ready my God, Thy will to see.

Open my eyes; illumine me,
Spirit Divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth Thou sendest clear.
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for Thee,
ready my God, Thy will to see.
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit Divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare love
with Thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
ready my God, Thy will to see.
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit Divine!

Second Reading

Matthew 20:1-16

The word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God

Sermon

The Rev. David Slyter

Hymn 435

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures
of the sea. There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice,
of the mind. And the heart of the E-ter-nal

which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's
is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more

sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -

where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

TEXT: Frederick William Faber, 1854, alt.
MUSIC: Dutch melody; arr. Julius Röntgen, c. 1906

IN BABILONE
8.7.8.7.D

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.

Prayers of the People 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.

Call to Stewardship

God invites us to experience and share compassion, love, and generosity with all the world. The tithes and offerings we bring together are a sign of our commitment to this life and to God's vision of a just world for everyone.

Offertory

Jesus Loves Me

"Jesus Loves Me!"

Congregational Response Hymn 606 Old Hundredth Doxology

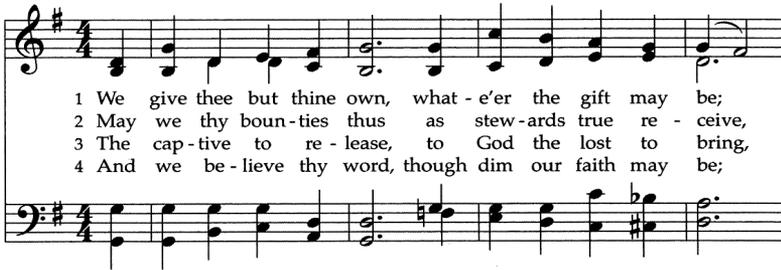
Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Accept now these gifts for the gospel of Christ. May they be used to multiply your blessing and love by their use in Christ's name. Amen.

Hymn 708

708 We Give Thee but Thine Own



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun-ties thus as stew-ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap-tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be;



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace: it is a Christ - like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Each successive stanza here expands the implications of the familiar affirmation of the first one. Much more than a concern with money, stewardship shapes our relationship with God and with other people. Despite this tune's name, no source has been found in Schumann's works.

TEXT: William Walsham How, c. 1858
MUSIC: Mason and Webb's *Cantica Laudis*, 1850

SCHUMANN
SM

Benediction

Be courageous and choose to live a life exalting the name of Jesus, by who we are and in what we say and do. Amen.

The Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

Postlude

Ellacombe

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"



Worship Notes 9.20.20

How is God speaking to me today? (music, sermon, scripture, prayers, etc.)

What are the takeaways from today's service? What is standing out to me?

How did the service challenge me?

Living in faith is something we do daily.
What actions will I take based on today's service?

You are encouraged to use this sheet during worship to help you engage more directly with God and reflect on God's call to you. Keep it in a place where you will be reminded of your responses throughout the week.

Grace First Presbyterian Church