

## Responding to the Word

\*Hymn 346 *St. Thomas*  
“For the Healing of the Nations”

\*Affirmation of Faith (Unison) 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.**

Pastoral Joys and Concerns of the Church

Prayer for the People and 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  
*All undesignated cash goes to the Compassion Fund.*

Offertory *Healey Willan*  
“Prelude on *St. Columba*”

\*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

**Bearing and Following the Word into the World**

\*Hymn 238 *Judas Maccabeus*  
“Thine is the Glory”

\*Invitation to Discipleship

\*Charge and Benediction

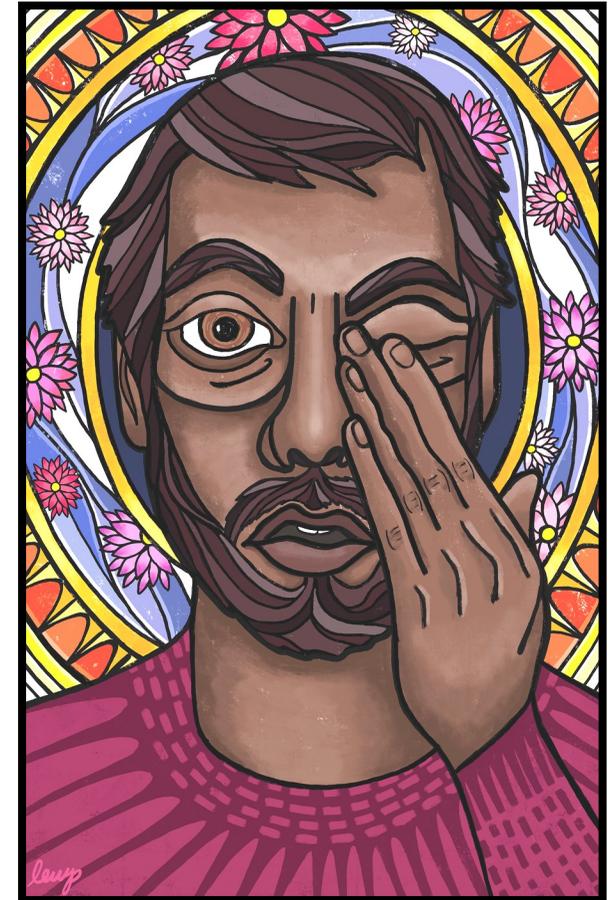
\*Closing Congregational Response 748 *Tallis’ Canon*  
“Go with Us, Lord”

**Go with us Lord, and guide the way  
Through this and every coming day,  
that in your Spirit strong and true  
Our lives may be our gift to you.**

\*Peace of Christ  
The peace of Christ be with you  
**And also with you**

\*Closing Voluntary *Jan Pieter Sweelinck*  
“Toccata in A Minor”

Today’s Liturgy has been adapted from:  
Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1;  
Year B, Volume 1; and Sanctified Art



*Grieving Thomas* by Lauren Wright Pittman

 **Grace First**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
*Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working*

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The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor  
The Reverend David A. Slyter, Associate Pastor  
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music

## THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

August 11, 2019

10:40 A.M.

When The Unimaginable Has Happened

*\*The congregation is invited to stand as music begins.  
Additional worshippers may enter as the congregation sings.*

### Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to worship at Grace First Presbyterian Church! As we light the Christ Candle, we are reminded that Jesus is the light of the world. As we pour the Baptismal Waters in the Font, we recall our baptism and newness of life. As we bring in the Bible, we remember the centrality of the Word. We worship our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. ***(Please sign the attendance register, pass it down the pew, and then back so everyone can greet those worshiping near you.)***

### Gathering Around the Word

Opening Voluntary Marcel Dupré  
"Antiphon V"

Entrance of Baptismal Water, the Christ Light, and the Bible

Call to Worship (Responsive) Virginia Welsh

So much in life is unpredictable.

**Life begins and ends.**

The weather changes.

**Love surprises us.**

Doors close.

**Others open.**

Life is unpredictable, but what we can count on is finding God in this space;

**For this is God's house, and all are welcome.**

So bring your questions and concerns, your doubts and wonderings, for in the midst of this unpredictable life, we can predict this:

**Love lives here. Let us worship God!**

Prayer of Invocation

\*Hymn 12

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

*St. Denio*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Responsive)

Gracious God, You ask us to follow you, and we respond with logistical questions—

**How long? Where to? Will we return?**

You ask us to love each other, and we respond with excuses—

**I don't know how. We don't see eye to eye.**

You ask us to dream and we get stuck in our own heads—

**Change will never come. Is it worth it?**

You ask us to believe, and like Thomas, we ask for proof—

**Unless I see the nails in his hands, I cannot believe.**

Forgive us for our small-minded ways.

**Open our eyes as you open our hearts.**

Unravel our doubt. Unravel our unbelief.

**Lead us to rest in you. Gratefully we pray...**

Silent Confession...

Assurance of Forgiveness

\*Congregational Response Hymn 761 (v.1) *Beecher*

**Called as partners in Christ's service,  
called to ministries of grace,  
we respond with deep commitment  
fresh new lines of faith to trace.**

**May we learn the art of sharing,  
side by side and friend with friend,  
equal partners in our caring  
to fulfill God's chosen end.**

## Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Music Ministry

Benedetto Marcello

"Give Ear Unto Me"

Debbie Kaiser, Linda Young

Give ear unto me, Lord, I beseech Thee,  
for I have walked in Thy commandments.  
Let me be judged with righteous judgment,  
O let my sentence come from Thy presence.

O show Thy loving kindness,  
Thy marvelous loving kindness,  
O Thou that art the Savior of them that trust in Thee.

Children's Time

The Rev. David A. Slyter

Children's Worship

*Children up through 5<sup>th</sup> grade may leave the Sanctuary  
at this time. Following worship, parents should  
pick up their child in room 6.*

First Reading

1 John 1:1-2:2  
Pew Bible: Page 238

The Word of God for the People of God  
**Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

John 20:19-29  
Pew Bible: Page 115

The Word of God for the People of God  
**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz