

Sermon Text                      Pew Bible  
James 2:1-17                      Page 229

A reading from the Book of James  
Thanks be to God

Sermon                                      The Rev. Edie A. Gause  
*ACCUSED OF ACTS OF FAVORITISM*

### Responding to the Word

\*Hymn 203                                      *Chereponi*  
“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

\*Affirmation of Faith (Unison)  
**The Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”**

Pastoral Joys and Concerns of the Church

Prayer for the People and Lord’s Prayer                      Choral Amen

**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.**

Call to Stewardship  
*All undesignated cash goes to the Compassion Fund.*

Offertory                                      arr. Wilbur Held  
“Prelude on *The Ash Grove*”

\*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 (Unison)  
**With hearts of praise, O Lord, we dedicate to you these gifts as tokens of our lives and work. Use them, as you use us, to the fulfilling of your purposes for creation, that we might give glory to you not only in the hearing, but in the doing of your word. Amen.**

### Bearing and Following the Word into the World

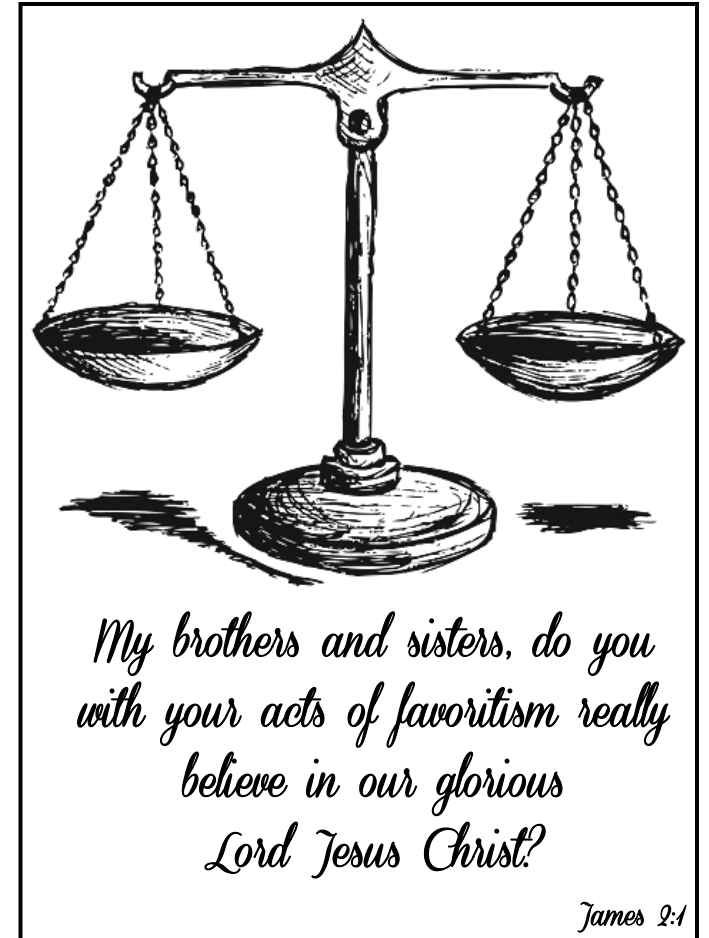
\*Hymn 730                                      *Grand Isle*  
“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

\*Invitation to Discipleship

\*Charge and Benediction (Responsive)  
Go forth in courage to serve as a saint of God.  
**We go to be the church in the world.**  
Go forth in hope to share the love of God with whomever crosses your path this week.  
**We go forth to share the love of God.**  
May God go with you all.

\*Closing Choral Response                      Carl Schalk  
“O Lord God, You Have Called Your Servants”  
**Sanctuary Choir**  
**O Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*Closing Voluntary                                      Flor Peeters  
“Festival Voluntary”



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The Reverend Dr. Edith A. Gause, Interim Pastor  
The Reverend David A. Slyter, Associate Pastor  
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music



## THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

September 9, 2018

10:40 A.M.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*\*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 worshipping in their pew.)**

### Gathering Around the Word

Opening Voluntary  
"Aria" Flor Peeters

Chimes  
The Entrance of the Bible

### Call to Worship

Friends in Christ, come apart from the chaos for a while, and linger in the presence of God who is our source of life.

**God calls us to renew ourselves, and to find our life's purpose.**

The One who has made us would not have us journey alone. We gather as a sacred community of love, together on the quest to know God's hope for our lives and for this church.

**May we truly seek to live more faithfully as Christ's family, listening for the voice of God in our midst.**

### Prayer of Invocation (Unison)

**Most gracious and loving God, you fill our hearts with praise for renewed life in Christ Jesus. Fill our minds with meditations which are noble and true, that we may be strengthened in our union with Him. Amen.**

\*Hymn 318  
"In Christ There Is No East or West" McKee

### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**Center us now, O God, on your presence in this place among your people, as we lift up our hearts desires, our soul's deep needs, our hungers, fears and failures.**

**As we have often failed to be obedient to your will in our lives as individual disciples and as church, we pray that you will forgive us and enliven us to be and to do the gospel of Christ. Open us to your Spirit's urgings, and awaken us to live faithfully as your people in a changing, often hurting world.**

**We share our awareness of our shortcomings and await the blessed word of your pardon. In Jesus name we pray.**

### Silent Confession...

### Assurance of Forgiveness

\*Congregational Response Hymn 361 (vs.4) Aurelia  
**This is the moment glorious  
when He who once was dead  
shall lead His church victorious,  
their champion and their head.  
The Lord of all creation  
his heavenly kingdom brings:  
the final consummation,  
the glory of all things.**

### Proclaiming the Word

### Prayer for Illumination

Music Ministry African-American Spiritual  
"There Is A Balm" arr. John L. Bell  
Sanctuary Choir  
Dianna Dixon, Solo

***There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.***

**Sometimes I feel discouraged  
and think my work's in vain,  
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.**

**If you cannot preach like Peter, I cannot!  
If you cannot pray like Paul, nor like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus and say,  
"He died for all."**

**Don't ever feel discouraged for Jesus is your friend;  
and if you lack the knowledge  
He'll ne'er refuse to lend.**

Scripture Reading  
Mark 7:24-37

Pew Bible  
Page 42

A reading from the Gospel of Mark  
**Thanks be to God.**

Children's Time  
Pastor David

### Kids leave for Children's Worship

*Kids up through 5<sup>th</sup> grade may go to Children's  
Worship. All others stay in the sanctuary.*

Psalm 125  
Pew Bible Page 572  
Cantor: John Fields

Hal H. Hopson.

REFRAIN



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