



John August Swanson, *Rainbow*

FIRST   
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

Twenty-First Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
Sunday, August 22, 2021  
10:30 A.M.

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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## THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalm 77:11-14*

I will remember the works of the LORD,  
and call to mind your wonders of old.

**I will meditate on all your acts  
and ponder your mighty deeds.**

Your way, O God, is holy;  
who is so great a god as our God?

**You are the God who works wonders  
and have declared your power among the peoples.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

God of the ages, by signs and wonders you established your ancient covenant, and through the sacrifice of your Son you confirmed the new covenant yet more wondrously. Guide your church to the land of promise, that there we may celebrate your name with lasting praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

\*HYMN 49

*The God of Abraham Praise*

LEONI

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

May God be with you in worship here.

**May God be with you in worship there.**

*Children may depart the sanctuary with their teacher for Worship & Wonder. They will return to the sanctuary before communion.*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

*Joel 2:12-13*

Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Psalms 51, Selected Verses*

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

*Silence is kept for personal confession.*

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*from Ezekiel 11:17-20*

Therefore say: Thus says the Lord God: I will gather you from the peoples, and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel. I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them; I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, so that they may follow my statutes and keep my ordinances and obey them. Then they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

In God's covenant love, we are forgiven and freed. **Thanks be to God.**

\*GLORIA PATRI

GREATOREX

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.*

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since we have been reconciled to God, let us also be reconciled to one another.  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

\*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 463)

*When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.*

*When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.*

## THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*Psalm 119:105, 114, 125*

Your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. You are our hiding place and our shield; We hope in your word. We are your servants; give us understanding, so that we may know your decrees. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 43:1-4                      The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 5:17-20

Matthew 22:34-40                The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

“God’s Word to Us”

Rev. Matt Curry

Part 4 of the “You Asked For It!” Sermon Series

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*from A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Legacy Giving

Diane Bowers

## THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

\*THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise...**

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,*

*Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.*

#### 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.**

#### BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

#### LITANY AFTER COMMUNION

*Isaiah 25:6-9*

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.

**And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;  
he will swallow up death for ever.**

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the Lord has spoken.

**It will be said on that day,**

**Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.**

**This is the Lord for whom we have waited;**

**let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.**

## THE SENDING

\*HYMN 81

*Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

AUSTRIAN HYMN

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

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*\*Rise in body or spirit*

### LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Liturgist: *Jerry Price*

Communion Servers: *Patti Price & Glenda Price*

Much of today's liturgy comes from Old Testament sources.

The flowers today are given by Suzanne Guyer  
in loving memory of W. Dale Guyer, Jr., July 27, 1940-August 22, 2020.

## The Life of the Church

**Faith and Film Night** will be held Friday, August 27 at 7:00pm. We will be watching the 1998 movie *The Truman Show*. Pastor Matt will lead a brief discussion afterward based on three questions: (1) Where did you see God in this movie? (2) Where did you see evil? (3) Where did you find grace?

**“You Asked For It!”** Pastor Matt's August sermon series is focusing on questions submitted by the congregation. Here is the remaining schedule:

**Today:** *“Why do we give any credence to the Old Testament?”*

**Aug. 29:** *“How can we love the unlovable and forgive the unforgiveable?”*

**Wednesday Night Faith Formation** begins September 9. We will gather at 5pm for dinner, followed by classes for all ages. We hope you will join us!



First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive  
community of faith called to proclaim  
the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people,  
and to join God in the building of a  
just, peaceful, and compassionate world.



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Jeff Moles, Director of Christian Education & Mission  
Dennis Jewett, Director of Music  
Patrick Ritsch, Organist  
Stephanie Dube, Director of Youth Ministries & Weekday School  
Sasha O'Bryan, Office Manager & Pastoral Assistant  
Staci Estes Horn, Financial Secretary