



Hands Across the Divide, Derry, Northern Ireland

FIRST 
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Twenty-Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Sunday, August 29, 2021
10:30 A.M.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

O LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand?

Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.

I wait for you, O LORD, my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.

O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

*OPENING PRAYER

God of compassion, you sent your Word into the world to announce the dawn of salvation. Do not leave us in the depths of our sins, but give to us the fullness of your redeeming grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*HYMN 619

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Stephanie Dube

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

Rom. 3:23-24

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; yet we are justified by the gift of God's grace through the redemption that is ours in Christ Jesus. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord our God, you call us to proclaim the gospel, but we remain silent in the presence of evil. You call us to be reconciled to you and to one another, but we are content to live in separation. You call us to seek the good of all, but we fail to resist the powers of oppression. You call us to fight pretensions and injustice, but we sit idly by, endangering the lives of people far and near. Forgive us, O Lord. Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit, and give us the courage and strength to be reconciled to others; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.

Silence is kept for personal confession.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rom 5:5

Hear the good news! Hope does not disappoint us, for God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us in baptism. Believe this good news and give thanks: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Amen.**

*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 444)



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray,
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with-in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease.



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
what triv - ial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!
Then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Leviticus 19:9-18 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Ephesians 4:25-32 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 18:21-22 The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

“The Hardest Question”

Rev. Matt Curry

Part 5 of the “You Asked For It!” Sermon Series

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the Confession of 1967

The reconciling act of God in Jesus Christ exposes the evil in people as sin in the sight of God. In sin, people claim mastery of their own lives, turn against God and each other, and become exploiters and despoilers of the world. They

lose their humanity in futile striving and are left in rebellion, despair, and isolation. Wise and virtuous men and women through the ages have sought the highest good in devotion to freedom, justice, peace, truth, and beauty. Yet all human virtue, when seen in the light of God's love in Jesus Christ, is found to be infected by self-interest and hostility. All people, good and bad alike, are in the wrong before God and helpless without God's forgiveness. Thus everyone falls under God's judgment. No one is more subject to that judgment than those who assume that they are guiltless before God or morally superior to others. God's love never changes. Against all who oppose the divine will, God expresses love in wrath. In the same love, God bore judgment and shameful death in Jesus Christ, to bring all people to repentance and new life.

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

John Purifoy

*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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life. As we have been served, help us serve our neighbors. As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry. As we have been loved, help us to love the world – because in Christ Jesus you have loved us. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 436

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us

O QUANTA QUALIA

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Liturgist: *Harley Bravo*

Communion Servers: *Creda Heffelfinger & Cindy Hicks*

The Life of the Church

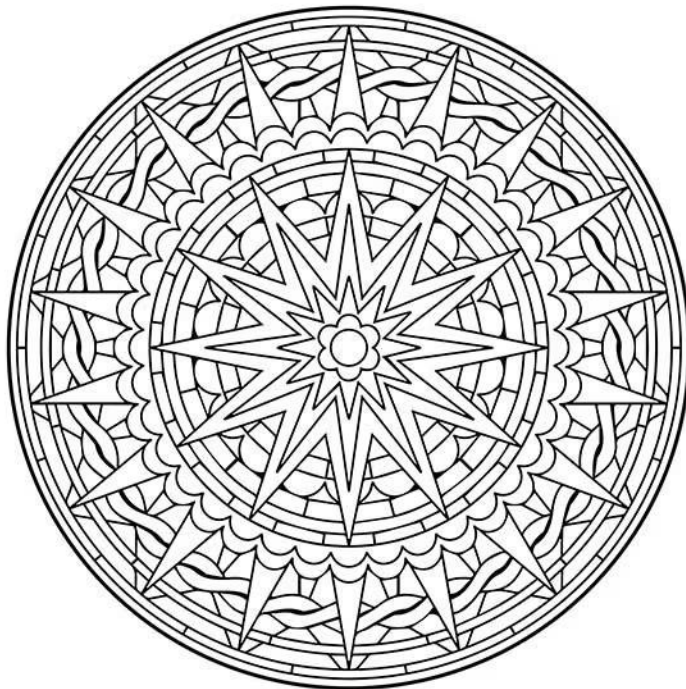
“You Asked For It!” Pastor Matt’s August sermon series has focused on questions submitted by the congregation. The series wraps up today inspired by this question:

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

Legacy Giving will be a focus of Sunday, September 12. Rev. Dr. Craig Howard of the Presbyterian Foundation will join us as our guest preacher and will lead a program following worship about various ways we can make the church part of our planned giving.

Due to the high level of COVID-19 spread in our community, the launch of Wednesday Night Faith Formation is being postponed. We will begin this program as soon as we can wisely do so.

A Study of Mark’s Gospel will be led by Pastor Matt on Zoom at 6:00pm on Wednesdays beginning September 8.





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
David Ambs, Custodian