



The Last Mile, Kenneth Reams (Death row inmate, Arkansas)

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



Twenty-Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Sunday, September 4, 2022
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

Ps. 139, Jer. 18

We come with praise for the wonderful works of God.

Even before we speak, God knows us completely.

The Holy One knows us and sustains us,
even in our moments of confusion and doubt.

Who can count the thoughts of God?

They are more than all the sands of the desert.

Like clay in the hand of the potter, we are shaped into vessels of divine will.

We come with praise for the wonderful works of God.

*OPENING PRAYER

Boundless Shaper of people and nations, you are beyond our knowing, yet closer to us than our every breath. You are before us and behind us, surrounding us with your love, and fashioning all of creation in the secret depths of your heart. With every thought, with every song, and with every prayer, turn these fragile, earthen vessels of our lives, into the Spirit-filled body of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*HYMN 619

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Diane Bowers

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 our Summer of Sharing Wisdom Books program. They will return to the sanctuary before communion.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Trusting in the power of God not only to shape and fashion the world, but to mend and refashion our hearts, let us confess the truth of our lives.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jer. 18:6

Holy God, like children long indulged, we are quick to presume your pardon, your sanction of the way we live. We turn away from our neighbors in need, sharing fragments that remain only after our cravings have been met. Merciful Maker, you created us for better use; remake us now. Where we are distorted re-center and reshape us, bring us low and raise us up. Then fire our hearts until we shine with your glory and find our place in your purpose.

Silence is kept.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

2 Cor. 5:17

Hear the sound of love poured out: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new. Siblings in Christ, I declare that your story is known, your sin is forgiven, your life is made new.

Let us live as those reborn! 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 401)

*Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away;
See in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young, our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Shaper of hearts and minds, as Jeremiah came to know you in the work of the potter's hands, teach us your ways in the reading of your word. Lead us into a deeper understanding of your ways, that we may know and do your will. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 18:1-11 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Philemon 1-21 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“The (Misinterpreted) Word of the Lord”

Rev. Matt Curry

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

Come By Here

Pederson

*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

All who seek God are invited to the table, regardless of church affiliation or any other condition or identity. You may take communion by taking a small piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. Pre-packaged elements are also available in baskets for a contact-free option.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of grace, you invite us to your table and welcome us as part of your family. You feed us with your body and satisfy our deepest hunger. We thank you for these gifts. Now send us out into the world by the power of your Spirit that we may be your witnesses, sharing the life-giving news of the gospel. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 317

In Christ There Is No East or West

MCKEE

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Liturgist: Debbie McCoy

Communion Servers: Creda Heffelfinger & Marilyn Van Winkle

The Life of the Church

Wednesday Night Faith Formation kicks off September 14. Each Wednesday evening this fall from 5:00-7:00, we will gather for dinner, a brief time of worship, and classes for children, youth, and adults.

For the first six weeks, the adult class will be studying *Power Surge: Six Marks of Discipleship for a Changing Church* by Michael W. Foss. The book is available from most online retailers and as an e-book from the public library. For the first session, read through chapter 2.

Promotion Sunday is next week, September 11. We will present Bibles to our first, second, and third graders during worship.

Hearing Assistance Devices are available. Please see an usher if you would like to use one.

Marking Ordinary Time

The new banners adorning our sanctuary were created by liturgical artist Clee Lee, an elder at Second Presbyterian Church of Nashville. We are highlighting some of the symbolism that has been incorporated into these banners which are for the season of Ordinary Time.

The banner on the congregation's right is filled with crosses and other symbols for Christ and the church.



At the bottom of the cross is the most contemporary cross represented, the one that symbolizes our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). After the reunion of the northern and southern churches in 1983, a committee sought out a new mark that would be easily recognizable, included symbols of the faith, and was simple enough to use in a variety of ways. The PCUSA cross includes these symbols: a pulpit, a font, a chalice, flames, an open Bible, a dove, and a fish. The central part of the cross and the flames form a triangle which represents the Trinity. The fabric used in the body of the cross is the official clergy tartan.



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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Rev. Matt Curry, Pastor
Jeff Moles, Director of Christian Education & Mission
Stephanie Dube, Director of Children's & Youth Ministries
Dennis Jewett, Director of Music
Tyler Simpson, Organist
Sasha O'Bryan, Office Manager & Pastoral Assistant
Kevin Parker, Staff Accountant
Dylan Schroader, Custodian
Emmy Voyles, Nursery Care Provider