



MATTHEW 25

## Service of Midday Prayer

Wednesday, July 1, 2020  
First Presbyterian Church

### OPENING SENTENCES

Our help is in the name of the Lord                   *Ps. 124:8*  
**maker of heaven and earth.**

Jesus says: You are the light of the world.   *Matt. 5:14, 16*  
**Let your light shine before others.**

Praise the Lord.  
**The Lord's name be praised.**

PSALM  
(Hymn 755)

Psalm 111 and 112

Tune: HYFRYDOL

1. Alleluia! Laud and blessing to our God, whose Word is sure.  
In whose grace we find redemption, in whose love we live secure.  
Righteousness and compassion shall attend us all our days;  
May God's promise to be faithful echo through our songs of praise!
  
2. Alleluia! God sustains us. Matchless are the gifts we share.  
Light in darkness, hope in conflict, answers to our deepest prayer.  
Ours to give as we are given, arms to lift when others fall;  
Images of God's great goodness, faithful servants to God's call.
  
3. Alleluia! Holy Parent, all your children now reclaim;  
May our lives reflect your justice, heirs to your most sacred name.  
Fill our hearts with understanding, brace our weakness by your might;  
Awesome honor, born in wisdom; your great glory, our delight!

SCRIPTURE Matthew 5: 13-20

The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

*Sung Response:*

***You shall not live by bread alone  
But by every word  
That proceeds from the mouth of God  
Allelu, Alleluia!***

REFLECTION “The Creation” by James Weldon Johnson

## PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Beatitudes for a Matthew 25 Congregation,  
based on Matt. 5:1-12 and the three Matthew 25 priorities of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

Blessed are those who serve the poor,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

*Systemic Poverty*

Blessed are those who share the wealth,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who work for good,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who open doors,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

*Structural Racism*

Blessed are those who break down walls,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who challenge hate,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who live their faith,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

*Congregational Vitality*

Blessed are those who speak the truth,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who show Christ's love,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

HYMN

*Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

Tune: NETTLETON

1. Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
With a liberating light.  
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,  
Turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel,  
Healing ev'ry dread disease,  
Calming storms and feeding thousands  
With the very bread of peace.
2. Praise the One who blessed the children  
With a strong yet gentle word.  
Praise the One who drove out demons  
With a piercing, two edged sword.  
Praise the one who brings cool water  
To the desert's burning sand.  
From this well comes living water,  
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
3. Praise the One true love incarnate:  
Christ who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose for many  
That we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
Seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory;  
Praise the One who makes us one.

#### DISMISSAL

God is with us in Jesus Christ.

Matt. 1:23

**Amen.**

Bless the Lord.

**The Lord's name be praised.**