



CONNECTING IN CHRIST
TRANSFORMING LIVES

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TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Preacher

The Rev. Cader Howard

Organist

Dr. Laura Edman

Liturgist

Lenny Snellman

Sanctuary Choir Director

Dr. Allan Kellar

Audio Visual Technicians

John Richards

Peter Bachman

Hospitality

Brian & Jane Luke

Special Thanks

To the Sanctuary Choir
for the offerings of music
at our worship today.

WELCOME!

After worship, we invite you to
join us in the Gathering Area
or step outside for a time to
greet one another.
Refreshments served.

Where noted *
please rise in body or in spirit.

WORSHIP ON THE LORD'S DAY

SUNDAY, SEPT. 12TH, 2021 | FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our service begins at 9:30 am (CT)

God welcomes all people and so do we. We are glad you are here!

Please enter quietly and be seated as we prepare our hearts for worship.

*Masks are required for everyone on Sunday mornings at all times
and in all parts of the building. Masks are available if you need one.*

*Our nursery is available for children 6 and under. Families with young children may
choose to sit together in the designated family pews located near the piano.*

This morning's service is being broadcast live on our website and Facebook page.

Prelude | Variations on *The Gift of Love* —O Waly Waly, arr. Janet Linker

Welcome & Announcements

CALL TO WORSHIP

Introit | *Now At Last We Sing Again* —Tom Lough

*Now at last we sing again, with heart and soul and voice,
Sounding out a joyful song! In gladness we rejoice.*

*Call to Worship

One: Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;

All: Let us walk in the presence of the Lord in the land
of the living, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

*Hymn | #693 "Though I May Speak"

- 1 Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**
- 2 Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.**
- 3 Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.**

Confession & Assurance of Pardon

One: The Lord listens to the cries of the people
who turn with full hearts to the One who has mercy.
Let our tongues now make confession
in the presence of God and of this body:

All: Holy God, in the face of sin, our gravest enemy, we call to you for help.
You know our fault before we speak.
Forgive us for what we have done in opposition to your will.
Forgive us for those things we have not undertaken and for which we know our wrong.
We have not loved you and our neighbors as we ought.
We have denied our dependence on you.
Lead us away from this grief and sorrow.
Save us so that we may fulfill our vows to you and attend to the needs of your people.
Amen.

One: God, who is gracious and merciful, knows the human desire to save our lives by avoiding Jesus' call to carry the cross. God, who is full of compassion, also knows that those who repent have set their minds and hearts on what endures for all time. Our sin is forgiven! The Lord God is a very present help to those who seek to follow in the way of divine things. Go with God in joy as you take up your cross, in Jesus' name.

Passing the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Worshipping with our Children

Anthem | *A Universal Blessing* —Music and text by Alice Parker

*May love so dwell in our hearts, may compassion so flow from our hands,
May peace so encompass our lives that justice and mercy abound in the world.
Sing love, sing compassion, sing peace.*

WE PROCLAIM AND HEAR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: You speak to us, Lord, with tongues of wisdom.
Let your Holy Spirit now open us to hear with greater clarity the teachings of today,
that we may hold dear in yet new ways what it is you will for us,
in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture Reading | Psalm 116:1-9

I love the Lord, who heard my voice and my supplications. Because God inclined an ear to me, therefore I will call on the Lord as long as I live. The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, save my life!" Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful. The Lord protects the simple; when I was brought low, God saved me. Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you. For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. I walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading | Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens— awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon | “Teaching in These Difficult Times” —Rev. Cader Howard

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*Hymn | #722 “Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak” —Verses 1, 3, and 5

- 1 **Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of your tone.
As you have sought, so let me seek your erring children lost and lone.**
- 3 **O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious truths which you impart.
And wing my words that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.**
- 5 **O use me, Lord, use even me, just as you will, and when, and where
until your blessed face I see, your rest, your joy, your glory share.**

*Affirmation of Faith | from a Declaration of Faith

CHRIST CALLS US TO BE DISCIPLES.

One: *In forming his people and sending them into the world Jesus called individuals to be disciples.*

**All: They were to share the joy of his companionship,
to understand and obey his teachings, and to follow him in life and death.**

One: *We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship.*

All: Life shared with Christ and shaped by Christ is God's undeserved gift to each of us.

One: *It is also God's demand upon every one of us, never perfectly fulfilled by any of us.*

**All: Forgiven by God and supported by brothers and sisters,
we strive to become more faithful and effective in our daily practice of the Christian life.**

Our Response to God's Generosity

Offertory | Variation IV on *The Gift of Love* —arr. Janet Linker

Prayers of the People | 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.

WE GO INTO THE WORLD TO SERVE

***Closing Hymn | #766** “The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound” vs. 1, 2, & 4

- 1 The church of Christ cannot be bound by walls of wood or stone.
Where charity and love are found there can the church be known.**
- 2 True faith will open up the door and step into the street.
True service will seek out the poor and ask to wash their feet.**
- 4 If what we have we freely share to meet our neighbor's need,
then we extend the Spirit's care through every selfless deed.**

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude | Variation VII (Finale) on *The Gift of Love —arr. Janet Linker

The Postlude leads us into the world in mission and service. You are invited to leave the sanctuary joyfully or to stay and listen—it's your choice. Please be respectful of those who need to exit the pews and those who remain to listen.

WEDNESDAYS: “Spiritual Growth in Our Later Years”—A new offering for older adults (self-defined) on Wednesday mornings from 10-11:30 a.m. in Room 202. Facilitated by the Rev. Anita Cummings, we plan to meet each morning, reading short passages from various books and writings, with time for sharing, reflection, and prayer along the way. Come whenever you can, as each session will be self-contained. Friends welcome. Books & coffee provided. Any questions, call Anita at 651-430-8851.

BOOK FAIR Fundraiser for PDA: Oct. 10 through 24th —Bring in your donations for this year's Book Fair by Oct 3rd. Books, CDs, DVDs, puzzles & board games welcome! Leave donations in the Library or Mission Central. Volunteers are needed to help set up after the Men's Breakfast Oct. 9th. Funds raised to benefit Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Oct. 3rd, 10:45 a.m.—“A Vision For Tomorrow's Church” Legacy Funds Ministry conversation facilitated by Pastors Howard and Chadwick. Our church is a vibrant and engaged community of Christians actively engaged in ministry and mission impacting the local and global community. All of this is built on a rich history in the Stillwater community. But what will our work look like in the future? Join the conversation for discussion and presentation on enhancing our long-term efforts. We live in a dynamic and changing world and recognize that an added dimension in financial stewardship is key. The Legacy Committee's work will be presented as a vehicle for aiding our efforts, but also as a clear step in aiding members of our church to think creatively about their own long-term giving. This presentation is not just for older folks with significant resources, but for every member of the congregation.

PW WOMEN'S RETREAT: Saturday, Oct. 16th, 8:30 a.m. at Family Means —Cameron Howard, associate professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary, will lead our study. Her topic: The Bible: Why Bother? "Revisiting familiar texts, including Genesis 1 and 2, we will consider the many different ways those texts can be read and ponder what it might mean to embrace the totality of the Bible precisely because of its messiness, not in spite of it." Plan now to experience Cameron's engaging leadership considering this provocative topic. Registration opens on Sept. 26th.

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THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
CONTINUING
SUPPORT!