

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
July 26, 2020
The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

While in-person Worship services are suspended, Montgomery Presbyterian Church will be recording services. The following is an order of service that you can use to follow along with the recorded service, or use to read and reflect on your own. It will be posted on either the church's Facebook page and/or the website, www.mpchurch.net. Please check Facebook, the website and emails the church for links to the recorded service. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this challenging time.

PRELUDE *Blessed Assurance*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Elder for July is Jim Ryan, 513-791-2499.

The Deacon for July is Sue Rose, 513-532-3794.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
 make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
 tell of all his wonderful works.
Glory in his holy name;
 let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
Seek the LORD and his strength;
 seek his presence continually.
Remember the wonderful works he has done,
 his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,
O offspring of his servant Abraham,
 children of Jacob, his chosen ones.
He is the LORD our God;
 his judgments are in all the earth.
He is mindful of his covenant for ever,
 of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,
the covenant that he made with Abraham,
 his sworn promise to Isaac,
which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,
 to Israel as an everlasting covenant,
saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan
 as your portion for an inheritance."

Praise the LORD!

HYMN *We Are One in the Spirit*

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored;
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land;
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride;
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one;
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION†

When we don't know how or what to pray,
the Spirit knows.
When all we can muster are sighs and groans,
the Spirit knows those also.
When we feel that we aren't even worthy to approach God,
the Spirit goes before us and with us
and God welcomes us with arms open.
Let us confess our sins together, saying . . .

PRAYER OF CONFESSION‡

Many times O God we take steps backwards instead of forward. We retreat from our lives and from our calling. We wander or struggle. We become directionless. In those moments we have lost sight of You, and we have lost sight of ourselves. We no longer have a vision or a dream inside of us. Sometimes this season in life lasts for just a moment, or a short day. Other times it lasts much longer—and we struggle to regain control. This happens to all of us. And so today O God we pray for you to be with us and make us new when this way of life is of our doing, because of our refusal to follow your call. And we pray O God for you to help us when this way of life is not our doing—when depression or hopelessness has a grip on our lives we are unable to release on our own. And we especially pray O God that we might have compassion and patience to love each other through all seasons of the lives

that we share—and to always remind others of your Good News, your Eternal Love, and your Hope-filled Promises. We pray these things in Christ's name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The past is left behind; everything has become fresh and new.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of mercy, you promised never to break your covenant with us. Amid the changing words of our generation, speak your eternal word that does not change. Then may we respond to your gracious promises with faithful and obedient lives; through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

God of Grace and God of Glory

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The grass withers and the flower fades,
But the word of our God endures forever.
Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Ruling Elder Stephen Thiel

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

... And now hear us pray as Jesus taught us as we say:

**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.

BLESSING AND CHARGE

May the God of glory, the Lord of life, and the Spirit of truth be with you all.

Amen.

Go out into the world in peace.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.

Amen.

POSTLUDE *How Firm a Foundation*

† The Call to Confession is by Rev. Matthew Thompson, First Presbyterian Church of Lamesa, Texas. It is based on Romans 8:26-27.

‡ The Prayer of Confession is by Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo, Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church.