

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
**October 18, 2020**  
**The Twenty-ninth 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. The service is posted on the church's Facebook page, on [YouTube](#), and will be linked to the MPC website, [www.mpchurch.net](http://www.mpchurch.net). Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this challenging time.*

**PRELUDE**

*Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Elder of the Month: Dave Bowen (703-2319)
- Deacon of the Month: Doug Rose (532-3789)
- Pledge envelopes went out in the mail in September, if you haven't returned yours, please do so as soon as possible.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Psalm 99:1-4,9*

The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble!

**He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!**

The LORD is great in Zion;

**he is exalted over all the peoples.**

Let them praise your great and awesome name.

**Holy is he!**

Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity;

**you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.**

**Extol the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain;  
for the LORD our God is holy.**

**HYMN**

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is not shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.*

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.*

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.*

*Refrain*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.*

*Refrain*

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

*1 John 1:8-9*

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But when we confess our sin, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION†**

**We seem to have lost the ability to see glory, God;**

**We look at money, or medals, last-person-standing triumphs, and exclusive, only-for-the-privileged-few accolades, and we call these glorious, forgetting how they tarnish after just a few moments.**

**We have forgotten how to recognize the glory that lives**

- **in the sacrifices of parents for whom feeding their children takes monumental effort each day;**
- **in the compassion of strangers who give time and talent to care for sick and dying souls;**
- **in the humility of well-qualified professionals who uses their connections and skill to ensure the success of small projects that bring life to the least;**
- **in the courage of peace-makers who stand empty-handed against tanks and bombs, or who choose to serve and love an enemy;**

**Open our eyes to the glory all around us:**

**the glory of crosses and opened graves in hopeless situations;**

**the glory of your presence and creativity in dark and ugly and fearful places;**

**And teach us to be both heralds and couriers of this glory,**

**so that it may be seen to cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*Psalm 103:17*

The mercy of the Lord  
Is from everlasting to everlasting.  
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,  
We are forgiven! **Amen.**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. **Amen.**

### **FIRST READING**

*Exodus 33:12-23*

Moses said to the LORD, “See, you have said to me, ‘Bring up this people’; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’ Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” He said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” And he said to him, “If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.”

The LORD said to Moses, “I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” Moses said, “Show me your glory, I pray.” And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, ‘The LORD’; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But,” he said, “you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.” And the LORD continued, “See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.”

The Word of God for the people of God!  
**Thanks be to God!**

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*The Gift of Love*

### **SECOND READING**

*Matthew 22:15-22*

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or

not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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 FOR THE PEOPLE

Now hear us as we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord be kind and gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

God has shown you what is good.

What does the Lord require of you?

To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. **Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

† Based on a prayer by John van de Laar, on his website [Sacredise.com](http://Sacredise.com).