



Forest Lake Presbyterian Church

Head, Heart, and Hands in the Service of Christ

NOVEMBER 22, 2020 | THIRTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

WELCOME

Ed Black

*Liturgical Color of
Green - hope, life,
anticipation, growth.*

PRELUDE

“O God Beyond All Praising”

Albert Travis

*During the majority
of the church year,
which is commonly
called "ordinary
time", the color that
you will find is green.
Because the color
green is so often
associated with life,
the use of green
during the seasons
and the times when
there is "nothing
special" going on in
the life of the church
(no big festivals or
holidays) reminds us
that God is present
among us, breathing
life into us and into
our church.*

CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 100*

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Serve the Lord with celebration! Come before God with shouts of joy!

Know that the Lord is God – he made us; we belong to God. We are God’s people.

We thank God because the Lord is good, his loyal love lasts forever. Let us worship God!

HYMN NO. 336

“We Gather Together”

We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make
know; the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. Sing praises to his name;
he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our Go with us joining, ordaining, maintaining his kingdom diving;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning; thou, Lord, wast at our side;
all glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant, and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation; thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made.

Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.

An assurance of pardon is one way of claiming God's promised forgiveness and grace. We believe that when we repent of our sin and ask God to forgive us that God does in fact forgive us. We don't need a preacher or priest to ask on our behalf. God deals with us directly as believers who seek to love and to follow.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *John 3:16-17*

For God so loved the world that God gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

In and through Jesus Christ the Son, our Sin is forgiven!

Thanks be to God for his steadfast love and grace.

HYMN NO. 606

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Did the Goalpost Move?”

Dr. Ellen Skidmore

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY DUET

“Thanksgiving Canon”

Arr. Anna Laura Paige

Beth Mears, alto; Charles Huff, tenor

We invite you to take a moment to reflect on what you can offer to God this week as a way to extend your praise and worship. If you are visiting with us but regularly worship at another church, we encourage you to remember to give prayerfully to your “home” church.

The Lord's Prayer is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples when they asked him to teach them to pray. (Luke 11:1-4)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Study Catechism: Confirmation Version
Approved by the 210th General Assembly (1998) of the Presbyterian Church
(U.S.A.)

Q37. How do you understand the words that “he will come again to judge the living and the dead”?

Like everyone else, I too must stand in fear and trembling before the judgment seat of Christ. But the Judge is the one who submitted to judgment for my sake. Nothing will be able to separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus my Lord.

Q 38. Will all human beings be saved?

No one will be lost who can be saved. The limits to salvation, whatever they may be, are known only to God. Three truths above all are certain. God is a holy God who is not to be trifled with. No one will be saved except by grace alone. And no judge could possibly be more gracious than our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Q 39. How should I treat non-Christians and people of other religions?

I should meet friendship with friendship, hostility with kindness, generosity with gratitude, persecution with forbearance, truth with agreement, and error with truth. I should express my faith by word and by deed. I should avoid compromising the truth on the one hand and being narrow-minded on the other. In short, I should welcome and accept these others in a way that honors and reflects the Lord’s welcome and acceptance of me.

HYMN NO. 643

“Now Thank We All Our God”

verses 1 & 3

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things hath done,
in whom this world rejoices; who, from our mothers’ arms,
hath blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven, to Father and to Son and Spirit
now be given: the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore, the God who was, and is,
and shall be evermore.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Now Thank We All Our God”
Michael Burkhardt

In 1998, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) approved three new catechisms for instruction and for worship: a children’s version, a confirmation version and a catechism for use by adults. Catechisms (a series of questions and answers) have been used for instruction since the sixteenth-century. They provide brief summaries of Christian faith and life in dialogue form.

Today’s questions come from The Study Catechism: Confirmation Version, written to be used by adolescents in confirmation classes.

Sanctuary Flowers

***Gifts have been given to the Glory of God
and in memory of Keena Britt Templeton,
by her parents, Russell and Sally Templeton.***

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