

THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 18, 2022

GATHERING AND PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

PRELUDE:

“Prelude in D Minor”

J.S. Bach

Readying Our Hearts (A time of silent prayer and reflection in preparation for worshipping God together.)

CALL TO WORSHIP (selections from Acts 2:17-21 and Psalm 92)

Leader: God will pour out His Spirit on all flesh, and our daughters and sons shall proclaim God’s Word. Our old ones shall dream dreams, and our young ones shall see visions; and all who call upon the name of the Lord shall be delivered.

People: Come, let us call upon the name of the Lord.

Leader: It is good to praise the Lord and make music to His name;

People: To proclaim God’s love in the morning and His faithfulness at night.

Leader: For the Lord makes us glad by His deeds;

People: We sing for joy at the works of His hands.

Leader: How great are God’s works, how profound His thoughts of us!

People: Come, let us call upon the name of the Lord. May the Lord be exalted forever!

INVOCATION

*OPENING SONG:

“Glorious”

Baloché/Brown

Acoustic Worship Team

**Look inside the mystery, see the empty cross.
See the risen Savior victorious and strong.
No one else above Him, none as strong to save.
He alone has conquered the power of the grave.**

Chorus: **Glorious, mine eyes have seen the glory of the Lord.
Glorious, He stands above the rulers of the earth.
Glorious, Glorious, Lord, You are glorious**

**Look beyond the tombstone, see the Living God.
See the resurrected ruler of my heart.
No one else above Him, none to match His worth
The hope of His returning fills the universe. (Chorus)**

Close: **Oh oh oh oh oh oh oh, You are glorious. (Repeat)**

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 61:1-3 (Pew Bible pp. 1157-1158)

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of joy
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD
for the display of his splendor.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Unison prayer after a time of silent personal confession.)

Our God, we come in humility, confessing who and what we are. We are often unresponsive, for we are afraid. When Your Spirit speaks, we turn deaf ears, for we fear what You might call us to do. When Your Spirit touches our lips, we close our mouths, embarrassed to speak Your Word. When the wind of Your Spirit blows, we close the windows of our hearts, afraid the breeze will disrupt our comfortable lives. When the fire of Your Spirit sparks compassion in us, we quench the flame, afraid of the sacrifices it might require. Holy Spirit wash us of our sin, set our souls on fire with Your love, and send us out into the world in Your power. As we hold out to You all our particular burdens of guilt and sin, we repent of that sin, and we ask You to help us to walk in the way of Your justice and love. (adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*, ©2004 CRC Publications)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (based on Ezekiel 36:26; 2 Corinthians 1:20, 9:15)

Leader: The Lord God said: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.” Brothers and sisters: In Christ, all God’s promises are “Yes.” Hear the good news: Through Christ, our minds and hearts are cleansed, healed, and renewed! In Christ, we are forgiven.

***All:** (*Gloria Patri*)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING GOD THROUGH GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 1:4-9, 2:1-4 (Pew Bible pp. 1690-1691, 1692)

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

ANTHEM: “A New Day Psalm” *English/Martin*
Choir

SCRIPTURE READING: John 14:15-20 (Pew Bible p. 1676)

“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever -- the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: “God’s Gifts that Enable the Doing of ‘Greater Works’”

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD THROUGH AFFIRMATION,
OFFERING, AND PRAYER**

*SONG OF REFLECTION AND RESPONSE: #149 “God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian”

**God the Spirit, guide and guardian, wind sped flame and hovering dove,
Breath of life and voice of prophets, sign of blessing, power of love:
Give to those who lead your people, fresh anointing of your grace;
Send them forth as bold apostles to your church in every place.**

**Christ our Savior, sovereign, shepherd, Word made flesh, Love crucified,
Teacher, healer, suffering servant, friend of sinners, foe of pride:
In your tending may all leaders learn and live a shepherd’s care;
Grant them courage and compassion shown through word and deed and prayer.**

**Great Creator, life bestower, truth beyond all thought’s recall,
Fount of wisdom, womb of mercy, giving and forging all:
As you know our strength and weakness, so many those the church exalts
Oversee its life steadfastly yet not overlook its faults.**

**Triune God, mysterious being, undivided and diverse,
Deeper than our minds can fathom, greater than our creeds rehearse:
Help us in our varied callings your full image to proclaim,
That our ministries uniting may give glory to your name.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER AND OFFERING

Invitation

Affirmation of Faith: 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 worshipped 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Partaking of the Elements and the Giving of Our Offering:

“Hymn of Heaven”
Acoustic Worship Team

Phil Wickham

Verse 1

**How I long to breathe the air of Heaven
Where pain is gone and mercy fills the streets
To look upon the One who bled to save me
And walk with Him for all eternity.**

Chorus 1

**There will be a day when all will bow before Him.
There will be a day when death will be no more.
Standing face to face with He who died and rose again.
Holy, holy is the Lord.**

Verse 2

**And every prayer we prayed in desperation,
The songs of faith we sang through doubt and fear
In the end, we’ll see that it was worth it
When He returns to wipe away our tears.**

Verse 3

**And on that day, we join the resurrection.
And stand beside the heroes of the faith.
With one voice, a thousand generations
Sing, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain;
Forever He shall reign”**

Chorus 2

**So let it be today we shout the hymn of Heaven.
With angels and the saints, we raise a mighty roar:
Glory to our God who gave us life beyond the grave.
Holy, holy is the Lord.
Holy, holy is the Lord.
Holy, holy is the Lord**

(For those joining with us in the Sanctuary this morning, you are invited, as you come forward to receive the Communion Elements, and as you feel so led, to place your offering in one of the plates up front. For those unable to be with us physically, you are encouraged to partake of the elements in your home at this time. Also, as you are able, we invite you to set aside your offering as an act of personal dedication at this time, either to be mailed in, dropped off at the church, or brought in when you are able to join us in worship. Let this time be one of receiving from and offering yourself up to our Lord -- to the praise of His holy name.)

Prayer of Commitment

*Sung Response (Doxology)

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

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

BRINGING OUR WORSHIP INTO OUR WORLD

*CLOSING SONG: #128 "Spirit, Working in Creation"

**Spirit, working in creation, bringing order out of strife:
Come among God's gathered people, giving harmony and life.
Spirit, speaking through the prophets so the voice of God was heard:
Come, inspire, alert Your people to this day's prophetic word.**

**Spirit, overshadowing Mary as the Christ-child in her grew:
Come, so that the Christ within us may today be born anew.
Spirit, coming from the Father as a dove upon our Lord:
Come upon Your favored people and Your blessings be outpoured.**

**Spirit, driving to the desert even God's Anointed One:
Come to us in trial and testing that God's will in us be done.
Spirit, breathed on the disciples, giving peace where there was fear:
Come among us, touch us, send us, making Jesus' presence near.**

**Spirit, wind and flame, empowering fearless witness to the lost:
Come, unite, new Your wonders as of anew at Pentecost!
Praise and glory, Holy Spirit, for Your love on us outpoured,
Giving honor to the Father and proclaiming Jesus "Lord."**

***BENEDICTION**

May Almighty God, who caused light to shine out of darkness, shine in your hearts by the power of His Spirit, that you might be kept from all sin, and that you might walk in the light of the knowledge of God's glory, which has been revealed to you in Jesus Christ, your Savior.
Amen.

***POSTLUDE:**

“Trumpet in Dialogue”

Nicholas Clerambeault

MEMORY VERSE: John 14:15-17a

“If you love Me, keep My commands. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to help you and be with you forever -- the Spirit of truth.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. If you would like to help support the work of Hope 7 in our local community we encourage you to drop off **non-perishable food items, toiletries and other hygiene items** either at Third Church (and we will get the items to Hope 7), or at Hope 7 directly (M-F 9:30-11:45), or call Sue Laz (518-892-4042) to arrange for a pick-up.
2. **We are receiving new or gently used clothes for the Capital City Rescue Mission (CCRM).** There is a box in the narthex for donations. You may bring your items to the church or call Sue Laz to arrange for a pick-up. And, of course, if you wish you can bring your items directly to the CCRM.
3. Wednesday evening Bible Study meets **this Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 6:45pm.** We'll be studying John 14:21-24.
4. **Looking for Fellowship Hosts.** Yes, we are looking for fellowship hosts once again! Hosting is a great and easy way to be part of the fellowship ministry and to connect with others in our church family. If you would like to host or have questions about what hosting involves, please see Natalia or Bill Multunas.
5. Children's Sunday school will meet following worship on Sunday, September 25, following worship.
6. **A Special Congregational Meeting of the Third Presbyterian Church of Troy, NY will be held today September 18th following the morning worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to act on the Proposal for Dismissal from PC(USA).**