

Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

19th Sunday after Pentecost

September 29, 2024

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Loving God,
Holy Mystery,
Power of healing and forgiveness,
we open our hearts to you.
Whatever distracts us from loving you, help us put it aside.
Whatever inhibits us from loving our neighbors, help us let go of it.
Whatever causes us to stumble, we offer it up to you.
Give us what we need to live without it, or live through it.
God of wholeness, bless us. Amen.

PRELUDE Prelude in G Major, BWV 557 JS Bach

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP Vince Leseney

We gather in this place
seeking to live in faithful community
and asking God to guide us.
Lord, revive our souls,
that we might lift each other up.
Lord, revive our souls,
that we might order our communities
in ways that lead us toward love.
Lord, revive our souls!

*SONG OF PRAISE When in our Music God is Glorified Hymnal, No. 641

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

**Called to be your people, Living God –
why do we find it so hard to answer?
You ask us to speak out against injustice,
and we whisper because we are afraid someone might hear us.
You ask us to see the pain and poverty around us,
but we close our eyes.
You tell us that everyone, and each one, is created in your image,
yet we persist in noticing the differences between us and others.**

**Forgive us, God of the Past and Creator of the Future.
May we be the ones who go out into the world,
bearing your gifts of peace, of hope, of healing, of joy
to every one who is broken,
even as we have been made whole
through the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

(Time of silent reflection)

Touched by the healing hands of our Lord, filled with the grace of our God, led by the compassion of the Holy Spirit, our hearts are opened and we discover we are forgiven and at peace with God.

Those who are created to love the unlovable; those who are created to bear grace; those who are created to embrace all people: we receive our forgiveness, giving thanks to our God. Amen.

This is the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Glory to God

Hymnal, No. 582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

World without end, without end. Amen (x3)
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

MISSION MATTERS

Joan Cole

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Joan Cole

SCRIPTURE READING

James 5:13-20

Page No. 983

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 124

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side—let Israel now say—

if it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us,

then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;

then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;

then over us would have gone the raging waters.

Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

ANTHEM I Was Glad

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 9:38-50

Page No. 821

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Stumbling Towards Jesus

Tracy L. Evans

SONG OF FAITH

Deep in the Shadows of the Past

Hymnal, No.50

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rom. 8:1, 28, 38, 39

**We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.
We are 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. Amen.**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Response: ... God of abundant grace, **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, p. 35

*Please pray the Lord's Prayer
in the language and wording most familiar to you.*

THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymnal, No. 609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

Hymnal, No. 804

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE

Postlude

Arnold Cook

*Please rise in body or spirit.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

Lectionary Readings for October 6: Job 1:1, 2:1-10 and Psalm 26; Genesis 2:18-24 and Psalm 8; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16.

The Food & Shelter items of the month for October are cold medicine and socks.

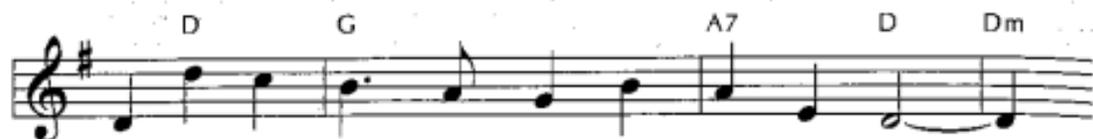
Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.

Hearing-assistance devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the head usher.

641 When in Our Music God Is Glorified



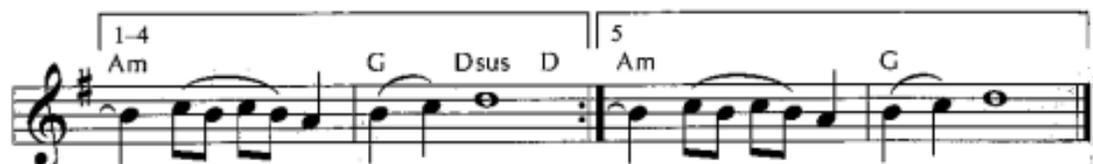
1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied,
 2 How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found
 3 So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song,
 4 And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night
 5 Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise!



and ad - o - ra - tion leaves no room for pride,
 a new di - men - sion in the world of sound,
 in faith and love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong,
 when ut - most e - vil strove a - gainst the light?
 Let all re - joice who have a voice to raise!



it is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried:
 as wor - ship moved us to a more pro - found
 borne wit - ness to the truth in ev - ery tongue:
 Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:
 And may God give us faith to sing al - ways:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Deep in the Shadows of the Past 50



1 Deep in the shad-ows of the past, far out from set - tled lands,
2 While oth-ers bowed to change-less gods, they met a mys - ter - y,
3 From Ex - o - dus to Pen - te - cost the prom-ise changed and grew,
4 For all the writ-ings that sur-ived, for lead - ers, long a - go,



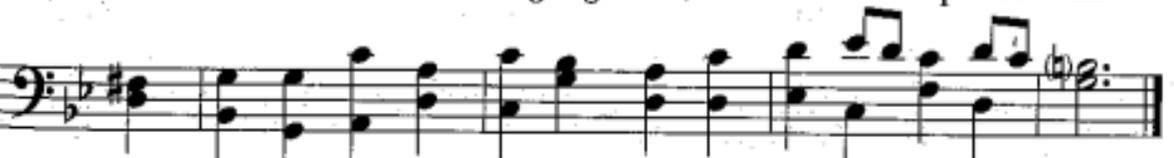
some no - mads trav-eled with their God a - cross the des - ert sands.
in - vis - i - ble, with-out a name: "I AM WHAT I WILL BE";
while some, re - mem-ber - ing the past, re - cord - ed what they knew,
who sift - ed, cop - ied, and pre - served the Bi - ble that we know,



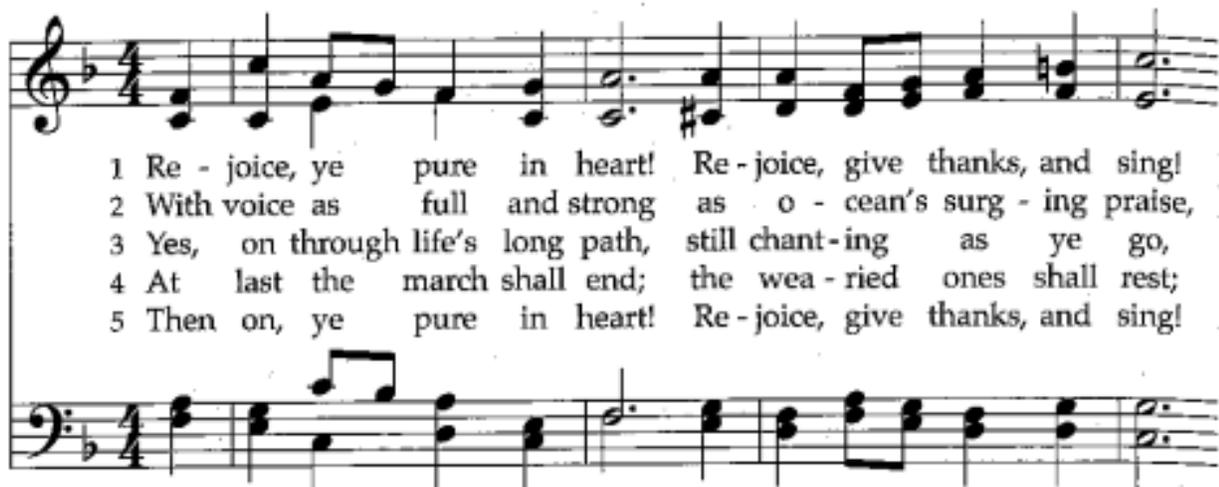
The dawn - ing hope of hu - man-kind by them was sensed and shown:
and by their tents, a - round their fires in sto - ry, song, and law,
or with their let - ters and la - ments, their proph - e - cy and praise,
give thanks, and find its sto - ry yet our prom - ise, strength, and call,



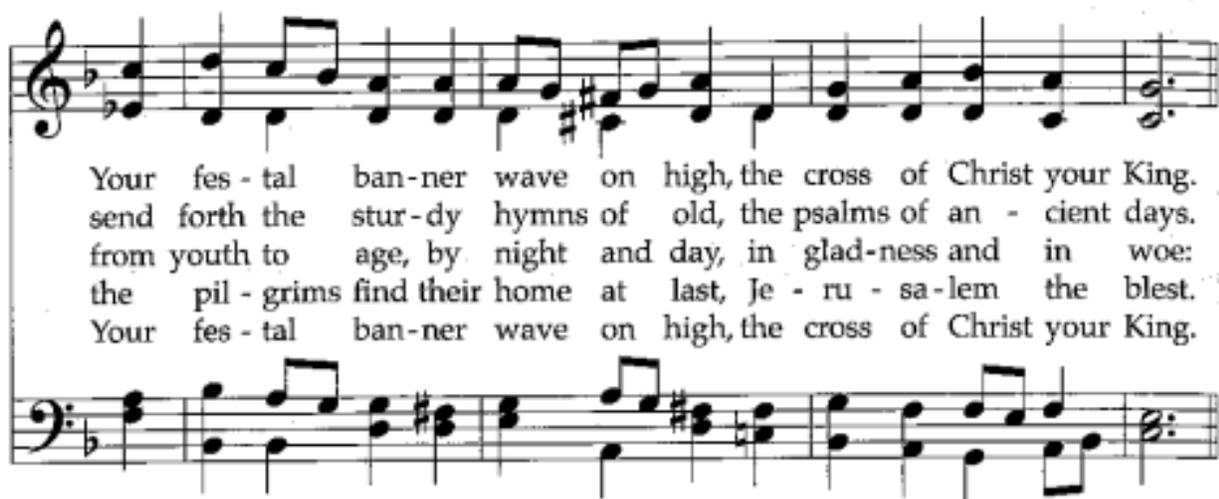
a prom - ise call - ing them a - head, a fu - ture yet un - known.
they praised, re - mem - bered, hand - ed on a past that prom - ised more.
re - cov - ered, kin - dled, and ex - pressed new hope for chang - ing days.
the mod - el of e - merg - ing faith, a - live with hope for all.



804 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!



1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!
 2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
 3 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as ye go,
 4 At last the march shall end; the wea - ried ones shall rest;
 5 Then on, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!



Your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
 send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
 from youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe:
 the pil - grims find their home at last, Je - ru - sa - lem the blest.
 Your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!
 Re - joice! Re - joice!