

# Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2023

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

God of abundant blessings,  
you give us the gift of Creation;  
you give us the gift of life;  
you give us the gifts of all that we possess.  
Everything is a gift from you.  
We turn to you now to receive the gift of your Word,  
so that we might be transformed by your grace  
and filled with your spirit of abundance.  
We listen for your Word,  
and we open our hearts to your presence. Amen.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE                      Prelude on We Gather Together                      Wilbur Held

## BRINGING THE LIGHT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP                      Nicholas Lindley  
Loving God, you create us in your image and claim us as your children.  
**We give you our lives in thanksgiving and praise!**  
You give us gifts, each different, and bless us with your grace.  
**We give you our lives in thanksgiving and praise!**  
Fill us with your Spirit, that we may serve you with love and joy.  
**We give you our lives in thanksgiving and praise! Alleluia!**

\*SONG OF PRAISE                      Here in This Place                      Hymnal, No. 401

## \*CONFESSION AND PARDON

**God of abundance,  
you have given us so many gifts.  
You bless us with talents, resources,  
skills, and knowledge,  
and yet we hide them under a bushel.  
We hoard these gifts, instead of following you  
and sharing with those in need.  
We have been poor stewards of all you have given.  
Forgive us, and help us grow what we are given,  
that it might be returned in service to you.**  
*(Time of silent reflection)*

God has destined us not for wrath,  
but for salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who died for us so that we may live with him.

**Praise be to Christ! Alleluia!**

\*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

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Mike Girdner

SCRIPTURE READING

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

Page No. 960

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 90:1-8, 12

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.**

You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;

**in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.**

For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

**You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 25:14-30

Page No. 807

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Talent Show

Tracy L. Evans

\*SONG OF FAITH

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Hymnal, No. 687

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**The risen Christ is the Savior of all people.  
Those joined to him by faith  
are set right with God  
and commissioned to serve  
as God's reconciling community.  
Christ is head of this community, the church,  
which began with the apostles  
and continues through all generations.**  
*(Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.10)*

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Response: ...God of 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

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY

Give Thanks

Hymnal, No. 647

Give thanks with a grateful heart;  
give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. (repeat)

And now let the weak say, "We are strong";  
let the poor say, "We are rich  
because of what the Lord has done for us!" (repeat)

Give thanks. Give thanks.

\*DEDICATION PRAYER

**FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

\*SENDING SONG

Come Labor On

Hymnal, No. 719

\*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*BLESSING AND CHARGE

\*POSTLUDE

Nun Danket alle Gott

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

\*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 November 26: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 and Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 and Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46.

The Food & Shelter items of the month for November **are gloves, good coats, stocking caps and hot hands. 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.

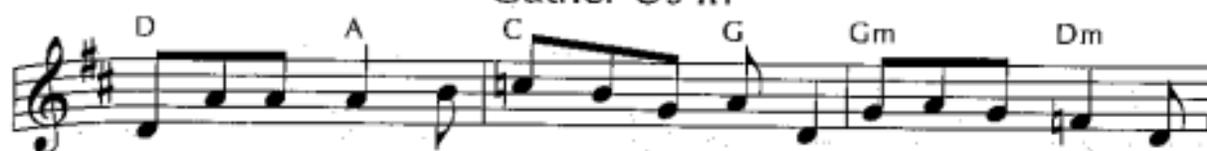


We have another gathering planned for **December 3**, but this will be different. Quite different. Instead of a potluck, the food **will be provided. It will be a simple soup and salad lunch**, provided by the deacons. We want to make it easy because we WANT YOU THERE. Following lunch, there will be a presentation on the state of the church.

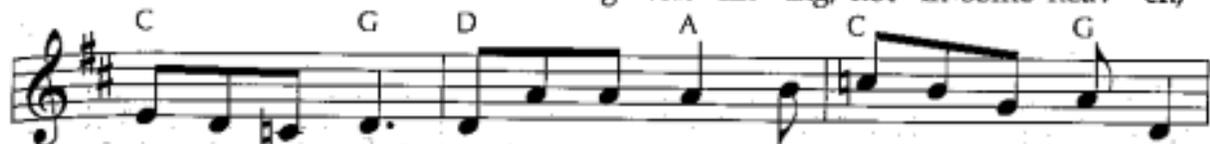
# Here in This Place

## Gather Us In

401



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

# 687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

(Psalm 90)

1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our  
 2 Be - neath the shad - ow of thy throne thy  
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or  
 4 A - thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are

hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the  
 saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine  
 earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing  
 like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that

storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
 arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
 thou art God, to end - less years the same.  
 ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,  
 bears all our years away;  
 they fly forgotten, as a dream  
 dies at the opening day.

6 Our God, our help in ages past,  
 our hope for years to come,  
 be thou our guard while life shall last,  
 and our eternal home.

## Come, Labor On

Capo 1: (G) (C) (G) (Em) (C) (G) (C) (D) (G)  
 A<sup>b</sup> D<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> Fm D<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> D<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>

- 1 Come, la-bor on. Who dares stand i - dle on the har - vest plain
- 2 Come, la-bor on. Claim the high call - ing an - gels can - not share;
- 3 Come, la-bor on. Cast off all gloom - y doubt and faith - less fear!
- 4 Come, la-bor on. No time for rest, till glows the west - ern sky,

(Em) (B7) (Em) (B) (Em) (C) (D)  
 Fm C7 Fm C Fm D<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>

while all a - round us waves the gold - en grain? And to each  
 to young and old the gos - pel glad - ness bear. Re - deem the  
 No arm so weak but may do ser - vice here. Though fee - ble  
 till the long shad - ows o'er our path - way lie, and a glad

(G) (Em) (C) (G) (Am) (D7) (G)  
 A<sup>b</sup> Fm D<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>m E<sup>b</sup>7 A<sup>b</sup>

ser - vant does the Mas - ter say, "Go work to - day."  
 time; its hours too swift - ly fly. The night draws nigh.  
 a - gents, may we all ful - fill God's righ - teous will.  
 sound comes with the set - ting sun, "Well done, well done!"

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*