



RALLY DAY

First Presbyterian Church

2023

RALLY DAY

August 13, 2023

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *Holy God, you speak to us in a voice unexpected and come to us in ways we do not recognize. Never leaving us to our own devices or defenses, you are the ever-present, all-powerful God. Call us out in faith again and again, until we learn to walk with you in steadfast love and faithfulness, and in peace. In the name of him who comes to us upon the waters, Jesus the Christ. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

OPENING SENTENCES *(Psalm 85:8)*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Let us hear what the Lord will speak.
ALL: *God will speak peace to the faithful.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

PRELUDE

American Hymn Prelude on NETTLETON
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Martin

CHORAL INTROIT

We Give You Praise
Chancel Choir

Beebe

*CALL TO WORSHIP + OPENING PRAYER

Kathelene White

One: When the storms of life are raging, stand by me.
ALL: *Lord, hear my cry and rescue me!*
One: When the world is tossing me like a ship upon the sea,
ALL: *God who rules wind and water, stand by me.*
One: God stands with you in bright sunshine and deepest storm.
ALL: *God gently guides us to safety and peace.*
One: Let us pray. Son of God, you walk on the waters of turmoil to meet us in the midst of your purposed journey of our lives.
ALL: *Help us to recognize your presence, remember your promise, rely on your power, and receive your peace through every storm. Amen.*

*HYMN: 463 *How Firm a Foundation*

FOUNDATION

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION *(based on Romans 10:12)*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Let us confess our sins to the Lord of all, who is generous to all who call upon him.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you call us to step out in faith, trusting in you for all things. We respond to your command but then sink in doubt and fear. We hide from the challenges of bold discipleship. We are not able to fulfill your commandments, for our purposes are never in full accord with yours. Forgive us, we pray when we confess with our lips but do not believe in our hearts. Help us to practice our faith in all circumstances. Lift us out of sin into the arms of your mercy. Though we are distracted by noise all around, allow us to hear your voice. We pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: We rejoice in the good news that God sent Jesus into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him! Those who believe in Him are not condemned.

ALL: *Although we are not worthy of God's mercy, God has welcomed and forgiven us! Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!*

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 447 *We Are Forgiven*

WE ARE FORGIVEN

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

*CONGREGATIONAL PHOTO

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: *And, also, with you.*

THE WORD

ANTHEM

My Hope is Built

arr. McDonald

Chancel Choir

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Rev. Courtney Bowen

COMMISSIONING OF TEACHERS IN THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY *(see insert)*

*RESPONSE: 298 *Lord, You Give the Great Commission (stanza 1 only)*

ABBOT'S LEIGH

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS

Ceil Cowles, Paul Taylor, Twyla Morgan

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Confirmation Class of 2022, Confirmation Class of 2023, Greg Blass + Carrie Kiser, Joshua Bowman, Amy Dietrich, Julia Erickson, John + Susan Kriaski, Scott + Laura Motley, Leslie Schutt, Roger + Rebecca Stanfield, Dean + Bonnie Thomas

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Courtney Bowen

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Kathelene White

FIRST READING *Romans 10:5-15 (page 160)*

Kathelene White

One: This is the word of God for the people of God. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING *Matthew 14:22-33 (page 16)*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: This is the word of God. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Take Heart

Rev. Courtney Bowen

RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from *A Declaration of Faith*)

Kathelene White

We believe Christ gives us and demands of us lives in pilgrimage toward God's kingdom. Like Christ, we may enjoy on our journey all that sustains life and makes it pleasant and beautiful. No more than Christ are we spared the darkness, ambiguity, and threat of life in the world. We are in the world, but not of the world. Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people does not rest in the powers and achievements of this world, but in the coming and the hidden presence of God's kingdom. Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom: to serve as he has served us; to take up our cross, risking the consequences of faithful discipleship; to walk by faith, not by sight, to hope for what we have not seen. (At this time, please find the red friendship pad located toward the center isle on each pew, sign it, pass it down your row and back again, taking note of those who worship with you.)

OFFERING

Kathelene White

OFFERTORY

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Goss

Duet by Macey + Noah Berry

*Doxology (Tune: 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*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.*

*Dedicatory Prayer

Kathelene White

SENDING

***HYMN: 838** *Standing on the Promises*

PROMISES

***CHARGE + BENEDECTION**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

CHORAL BENEDECTION

Walk in the Light
Chancel Choir

Purchase

POSTLUDE

Fantasy in C
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Krieger