



You shall love
your neighbor
as yourself.
Matthew 22:39



22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 29, 2023

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *Almighty God, in the self-giving love of Christ, you have revealed the path of salvation; give us courage to deny our selfish desire and bear the cross of discipleship, that we may live as those who have no fear of death and receive the joy of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

OPENING SENTENCES (*Psalm 90:1-2*)

Rev. John White

One: The Lord is our eternal dwelling place;
ALL: *from age to age, the Lord is our God.*

WELCOME + ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. John White

PRELUDE

Prelude on EBENEZER
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Ford

CHORAL INTROIT

Let the Whole Creation Cry
Chancel Choir

Kettring

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kathelene White

One: Happy are those who do not take the path that sinners tread.
ALL: *Our delight is in the law of the Lord.*
One: May we be like trees planted by streams of God's living water.
ALL: *May our lives bear good fruit, loving God and loving neighbor.*
One: Let us pray. God of creation, you have made us to be nourished in your care, and you test us so that we will turn again and again towards your gifts.
ALL: *Show us how to love our neighbors and ourselves, and teach us to delight in your law so that we will know the way of gratitude and thanksgiving.*
One: In the name of Christ Jesus, our Savior, we pray.
ALL: *Amen.*

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 12 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

ST. DENIO

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION (*based on Romans 12:21*)

Rev. John White

Let us speak the truth about ourselves to our neighbors and to God, acknowledging what we have done and what we have left undone.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. John White

Eternal God, your law commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Too often we prioritize our own interests above the health and welfare of others. We betray you and our best selves by living without regard for the ways our actions harm our neighbors in need and the planet entrusted to our care. Open our hearts to love. Open our minds to honestly acknowledge our role in wrongdoing. Forgive us and return us to your way of righteousness. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Rev. John White

One: Though our hearts were hardened to the needs of others, God has touched them with God's compassionate care, healing our wounds and giving courage and strength to our souls. Be assured that God's love is poured out for you and rejoice!

ALL: *Thanks be to God. Amen.*

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 447** *Glory Be to the Father
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. A-men, a-men.*

GLORIA PATRI

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Rev. John White

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.
ALL: *And, also, with you.*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM, Russell Alston Lumley (see insert)
HYMN: 486 *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (stanza 1)*
*Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.*

Rev. John White
KINGDOM

THE WORD

ANTHEM

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
Chancel Choir

arr. Hopson

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lindsey Patterson

**NEW MEMBER
RECEPTION:**

Caleb + Whitney Meriwether (Reaffirmation of Faith)
Blest be the Tie that Binds (Hymn 306)

Rev. John White

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. John White

***HYMN: 184** *Calm to the Waves*

CALM SEAS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Kathelene White

OLD TESTAMENT

Exodus 22:21-27 (page 68)

Kathelene White

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

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22:34-40 (page 25)

Rev. John White

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

Love and the Law

Rev. John White

RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *from The Confession of 1967*

Kathelene White

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ. The new life finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death. The teaching of apostles and prophets guides men and women in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips them for their ministries... Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.

(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

Jesus, Lead Thou On

Manz

Dr. Terry McRoberts

*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: 263** *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

CORONATION

***CHARGE + BENEDECTION**

Rev. John White

CHORAL BENEDECTION

May the Grace of God Our Savior

Stainer

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

March for a Pageant

Thiman

Dr. Terry McRoberts