

Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup>Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." <sup>9</sup>(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup>He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup>The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. <sup>14</sup>We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup>But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

**Sermon** Rev. Sharon Carter

**Responding in Faith**

**Affirmation of Faith** from *A Brief Statement of Faith*, PCUSA  
**In life and in death we belong to**

**Notes**

**God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve... In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**The Service of Giving**  
 Prayer of Dedication Offering Music  
**+Response** *Glory Be to the Father*  
 #577

**Sharing of Joys and Concerns**  
**Prayers of the People**

**Going into the World**  
**+Hymn** *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation* #417  
**+Charge and Benediction**  
**+Postlude**

MISSION



FELLOWSHIP

WORSHIP



THE BODY OF CHRIST



Community of Faith Presbyterian Church

August 12, 2018

+Stand as you are able

*Leader reads plain type, Congregation reads bold*

## Preparing Ourselves

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

### Lighting of the Christ candle

### +Call to Worship/ Gathering

#### Prayer

L: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

**P: You shall love the Lord your God, and your neighbor as yourself.**

L: O praise the Lord with me,

**P: let us exalt God's name together.**

Let us pray: **Grant us, O Lord, the grace always to do and think what accords with your purpose; that we, who cannot exist without you, may be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray together: *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.***

**+Hymn** *As the Deer* STF2025

### Call to Confession

The grace of God overflows for us through Christ Jesus, who came into the world to heal our brokenness. Let us now make our confession of sin together:

#### Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Do not cast us away from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful**

**How do we live a life worthy of our calling? What are we called to?**

### Spirit. (moment of silence)

### Assurance of Forgiveness

L: Hear the good news! Hope does not disappoint us, for God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us in baptism. Believe this good news and give thanks: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**P: In Jesus Christ we are all forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Song** *Spirit of the Living God* #322

### The Peace

L: As God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

### Back to School Blessing

### Special Music

### Hearing the Word

#### Prayer for Illumination

**Lord God, pour out your Spirit upon us to bring good news to the oppressed, and let your word be fulfilled among us. Amen.**

### Scripture Reading

**Ephesians 3:14-21** <sup>4</sup>For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. <sup>16</sup>I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened

in your inner being with power through his Spirit, <sup>17</sup>and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. <sup>18</sup>I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup>and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. <sup>20</sup>Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**Hymn** *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* #260

**Ephesians 4:1-16** I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. <sup>7</sup>But each of us was given grace according to the measure of