

them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. <sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me." (NRSV)

**Sermon** Rev. Sharon Carter

**Responding in Faith  
Affirmation of Faith**

**In life and in death we belong to 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. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating**

**Notes**

**with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. 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  
**+Song** *Glory Be to the Father* #577

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

Let us pray: (prayers are given; silence is kept.)  
God of compassion, you have given us Jesus Christ, the great physician, who made the broken whole and healed the sick. Touch our wounds, relieve our hurts, and restore us to wholeness of life, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Going into the World**

**+Hymn** *Sent Out in Jesus' Name*  
STF2184  
**+Charge and Benediction**  
**+Postlude**

MISSION



FELLOWSHIP

WORSHIP



THE BODY OF CHRIST



Community of Faith Presbyterian Church  
September 23, 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 and Opening Prayer

L: Happiness is found in the law of the Lord

**P: We remember God's commandments and follow them every day.**

Let us pray: **Almighty God, you created the heavens and the earth, and humankind in your image. Teach us to discern your hand in all your works and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving; 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** *Medley of Songs*  
STF2068, 2069, 2070, 2071

### Call to Confession

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence.

### Prayer of Confession

Let us pray: **Merciful and loving God, we confess that we sometimes we don't show the world the good life we have in you. We are cynical, bitter and suspicious; our hearts become hard as they are exposed to the world. We focus on what is good for us rather than focusing on your teachings. Forgive us, O God, and heal our wounded spirits, enabling us to help you heal our broken world. (moment of silence.)**

### Assurance of Forgiveness

L: Anyone who is in Christ is a new

**What does James want us to do to be a healthy, robust community?**

**How does his advice relate to Jesus' actions in the Mark passage?**

creation. The old life is gone, a new one has begun. Friends, know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

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

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

### The Peace

L: Be kind to one another, and tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. The peace of Christ be with you all!

**P: And also with you.**

### Anthem

## Hearing the Word

### Prayer for Illumination

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

### Scripture

**James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a** <sup>13-16</sup> Do you want to be counted wise, to build a reputation for wisdom? Here's what you do: Live well, live wisely, live humbly. It's the way you live, not the way you talk, that counts. Mean-spirited ambition isn't wisdom. Boasting that you are wise isn't wisdom. Twisting the truth to make yourselves sound wise isn't wisdom. It's the furthest thing from wisdom—it's animal cunning, devilish conniving. Whenever you're trying to look better than others or get the better of others,

things fall apart and everyone ends up at the others' throats. <sup>17-18</sup> Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results *only* if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.

**4** <sup>1-2</sup> Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves. You lust for what you don't have and are willing to kill to get it. You want what isn't yours and will risk violence to get your hands on it. <sup>2-3</sup> You wouldn't think of just asking God for it, would you? And why not? Because you know you'd be asking for what you have no right to. You're spoiled children, each wanting your own way. <sup>7-8</sup> So let God work his will in you. Yell a loud *no* to the Devil and watch him scamper. Say a quiet *yes* to God and he'll be there in no time. (*The Message*)

**Hymn** *Jesus Loves Me!* #304

**Mark 9:30-37** <sup>30</sup> They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup> for he was teaching his disciples, saying to