

with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Hymn** *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God* #364

**Gospel Reading** **Luke 12:49-56** <sup>49</sup>“I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup>I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup>Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup>From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup>they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.” <sup>54</sup>He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. <sup>55</sup>And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. <sup>56</sup>You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

**Sermon** Rev. Sharon Carter

## Responding to the Word

### Notes

### Affirmation of Faith

*Confession of 1967, 9.16,17*

We believe that God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of his dealings with humankind.

In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator. We believe that God has created us for personal relationship in which we may respond to the love of the Creator. Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage.

### Offering

Prayer, Offertory Music

**Response** *Glory Be to the Father* #577

### Going Into the World

**+Hymn** *In Christ There is No East or West* #440

**+Charge and Benediction**

**+Postlude**

*Opening Liturgy today is from the Ruach Words, a blog by Kathryn Dianna Studios*



FELLOWSHIP

MISSION

WORSHIP



THE BODY OF CHRIST



Community of Faith Presbyterian Church  
August 18, 2019 +Stand as you are able  
Leader reads plain type, Congregation reads bold  
type

## Preparing Ourselves

### Prelude

### Welcome

### +Call to Worship/Opening

### Prayer

L: We come to hear the sweet word of the Lord today.

**P: But sometimes the words are not so easy to hear.**

L: The good news of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

**P: Yet some days are not as easy as others.**

L: We come to worship the Lord who loves us through all of life no matter what.

**P: Let us come before our Savior today singing praises with ears and hearts open.**

Let us pray: **O Holy One, today we come before you with full lives and hearts and minds overflowing from our everyday existence, and here we pause to consider what we are doing. Let us take this time and space to reevaluate our lives. May we hear your will for us anew today; and may you hear us as we pray the prayer Christ taught: 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** *Sing to the Lord a New Song*  
STF2045

### Call to Confession

Our Psalm for today begs “turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted.” As the Psalmist of old, let us come before our Lord broken as we are and confess our sins:

### Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, you have so much love for us – have invested so much time and effort in us, and your returns must seem sometimes so very disappointing. You expect**

**Who is the person that you look up to as an example of faith?**

**Do you think the Jesus of peace is different from the Jesus of division? Which image do you relate to more closely?**

**justice, yet we just judge others to be less important than us. You expect righteousness, but eventually we abandon all our neighbors. We close off our ears and hearts and minds. But our mouths stay wide open and our hands never stop grabbing. Forgive us, please. Help us change from wild, sour grapes into the sweet produce of your kingdom. Renew us in you, we pray. (moment of silence)**

### Words of Assurance

L: In Christ we are forgiven and made new. Thanks be to God! Amen.

**P: We rejoice because we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Response** *Come Into Our Hearts*  
STF2157

### +Passing of the Peace

### Special Music

### Hearing the Word

### Prayer for Illumination

*Listen to the Word G2G #455*

Listen to the word that God has spoken,  
Listen to the One who is close at hand,  
Listen to the Voice that began creation  
Listen even if you don't understand.

### Scripture Reading Hebrews

**11:29-12:2** <sup>29</sup>By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do

so they were drowned. <sup>30</sup>By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup>By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. <sup>32</sup>And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— <sup>33</sup>who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup>quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup>Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup>Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup>They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— <sup>38</sup>of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. <sup>39</sup>Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup>since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect. <sup>12</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run