

dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. <sup>10</sup>“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup>If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup>No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

**Sermon** Rev. Sharon Carter

**Responding to the Word**

**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**

**Notes**

**and a task to be pursued with courage.**

**Offering**

Prayer, Offertory Music

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

**Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

**Prayers of the People**

Friends in Christ, God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dear to us as our own needs. Loving our neighbors as ourselves, we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions on behalf of the church and the world... (Moment of silence)

Loving God, open our ears to hear your word and draw us closer to you, that the whole world may be one with you as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Going Into the World**

**+Hymn** *Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining* #425

**+Charge and Benediction**

**+Postlude**



THE BODY OF CHRIST



Community of Faith Presbyterian Church  
September 22, 2019 +Stand as you are able  
Leader reads plain type, Congregation reads bold  
type

## Preparing Ourselves

Prelude  
Welcome  
+Hymn

## +Call to Worship/Opening Prayer

L: We look upon our world, our neighborhoods, our families, and see suffering and want.

**P: How long, O Lord?**

L: We see deep suffering, brutal violence, destroyed homes, and ravaged nations.

**P: How long, O Lord?**

L: Let your compassion come quickly to meet us, for we are brought low.

**P: How long, O Lord?**

L: Help us, O God of our salvation!

**P: Help us, O Source of our hope!**

Let us pray: **God of our salvation, you see your world laid waste with false worship, injustice, and indifference, and we tremble at your anger. Only in your tears, born out of vast love, do we find hope. Open to us the way of your tears—the way that leads us back to your love. Teach us to serve you and you alone, that you may deliver, forgive, and**

renew our world at last. We pray this in the name of Christ, who taught us to pray together, saying: *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.*

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

**We confess that we find your medicine hard to swallow. The quick fixes of this world are so much more pleasant, leaving us free to go back to our usual routines. But your medicine is powerful. And if we take it, it will remake and renew our lives. It will reorient us to you and to you alone. Turn us toward your love for justice and true worship. Forgive our sins, for which you weep. Forgive our hesitation. Grant us courage to choose you as our physician, and to serve you and you alone. (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** *Bless the Lord* STF2013

## +Passing of the Peace

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

**P: And also with you.**

**Anthem** *Walk With Me* – text found on STF2242

## 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 Jeremiah

**8:18-9:1** <sup>18</sup>My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. <sup>19</sup>Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: "Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?" ("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?") <sup>20</sup>"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." <sup>21</sup>For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. <sup>22</sup>Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored?

**90** that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!

**Hymn** *There is a Balm in Gilead*  
#394

## Gospel Reading Luke 16:1-13

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup>So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' <sup>3</sup>Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' <sup>5</sup>So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' <sup>6</sup>He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' <sup>7</sup>Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' <sup>8</sup>And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of