

opportunity to testify. ¹⁴So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; ¹⁵for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your souls.

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 and a task to be pursued with courage.

Offering
Prayer, Offertory Music
Response *Give Thanks* STF2036

Notes and Doodles

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



THE BODY OF CHRIST



Community of Faith Presbyterian Church
November 17, 2019 +Stand as you are able
Leader reads plain type, **Congregation reads bold type**

Preparing Ourselves

Prelude

Welcome

Lighting of the Christ Candle

+Call to Worship *Sing a New Song to the Lord* STF2045

Opening Prayer Together, let us pray the prayer that Christ taught us: ***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

Loving God, we confess that we struggle with the idea of sin. We know that we aren't perfect, but we do the best we can. We want to be better people but we always seem to fall short. We trust in your patience and love as we are patient and loving with our own children; and we are

grateful for your graceful presence in our lives. (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 and Fill Our Hearts*
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, you alone O Lord are holy, come and fill our hearts with your peace, alleluia. (2x)

+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

Where might we look for the signs in Isaiah in our world today?

Who do you think Luke was writing to in his gospel? What does it mean for us today?

Hearing the Word Prayer for Illumination

Listen to the Word G2G #455
(Sung as a round, 3x)

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 Isaiah 65:17-25

¹⁷For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. ¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. ¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. ²⁰No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. ²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²²They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—and their descendants as well. ²⁴Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. ²⁵The wolf and the

lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

Hymn *Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken* #446

Gospel Reading Luke 2:5-19

⁵When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, ⁶“As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.” ⁷They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them. ⁹“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. ¹²“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³This will give you an