

**Community of Faith Presbyterian Church**  
**Brunch Church**  
**Sunday, July 30, 2023**

Toll free conference call number (844) 855-4444, access code 654132#  
Worship will also be connected through Facebook Live

## **Gathering**

Family of faith, this must be the place. This is the place for connection and growth, for community and hope.

**This must be the place for questions like, “Where are you from?” and, “What do you need?”  
For whispers of: “I’ve been thinking of you,” and, “I’ve been meaning to ask. . .”**

This must be the place, because all belong here. All are welcome here. All hurt and joy, needs and prayers, dreams and love, are welcome here.

So, for our call to worship today, we are going to lean into invitation for connection.

I want to invite you to take two minutes and to share one thing that has brought you deep joy this week so that we might begin our service with joy, gratitude, and connection.

God is near. Let us worship Holy God

**Hymn**    *As the Deer #626 / I Love You, Lord. #627*

## **Call to Confession**

How many of you have ever had a bad day and found someone offering you unsolicited advice? How many of you have ever had a bad week and had someone rush in

with dozens of suggestions for how you might fix things, as if you hadn’t thought of that before?

We have all been there, and we have all done that. It is part of our humanity.

Our scripture reminds us today that often in the face of hurt, what people really need is not a list of advice or solutions, but the simple presence of love. So let us pray to God today, acknowledging that we are works in progress, and that relationships always come with mistakes and confession. Let us pray:

## **Prayer of Confession**

**Gracious God, sometimes life feels like cooking with flour— it looks like it should be easy, but we always make a mess. This is particularly true when it comes to our relationships. We so desperately long to say the right thing, to be the right thing, to find the right solution, that we overstep the line. Forgive us for assuming the place you fill. Forgive us for imagining that we, in all our humanity, could possibly fix all the hurt in this world. Instead, give us the grace and the strength to stand by our loved ones in their moments of need to witness their hurt without trying to fix it. You are God. We are not. Teach us how to be a friend. Teach us how to ask, “What do you need?” Teach us how to point to you. Gratefully we pray. Amen.**

(time for silent reflection)

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Family of faith, no matter how many times we have spoken without listening, assumed without knowing, offered without asking, or rushed without waiting—we are forgiven. God knows our desire and our intent. God knows when we try and miss the mark, and God surrounds us in grace. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel: Every day is a new day for love. We are claimed. We are forgiven. We are invited into relationship. Thanks be to God for growth and grace that know no end.

**Amen.**

**Sung Response**    *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me v1 #582*

**Special Music**

## Prayer for Illumination

God of long winters and longer summers, in the words of Paul, do your best to come to us quickly. Come to us with loud praise and joy, or appear to us in a still, small voice. Come to us through friends, or come to us through strangers. Come to us in this text and in this hour of worship, and come to us quickly if you can. We are seeking you. We are always seeking you. With grateful hearts cracked open by love, we pray. Amen.

## Scripture Readings

**2 Timothy 4:6-13.** <sup>6</sup>As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

<sup>9</sup>Do your best to come to me soon, <sup>10</sup>for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. <sup>11</sup>Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. <sup>12</sup>I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. <sup>13</sup>When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments.

**Job 2:11-13** <sup>11</sup>Now when Job's three friends heard of all these troubles that had come upon him, each of them set out from his home—Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They met together to go and console and comfort him. <sup>12</sup>When they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him, and they raised their voices and wept aloud; they tore their robes and threw dust in the air upon their heads. <sup>13</sup>They sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

## Responding to the Scripture/ Conversation

*See questions for discussion on your table.*

## Invitation to Generosity

You give us so much and we are so grateful God, so out of gratitude to you we want to give something back, something that will bring hope to our neighbors near and far. Whether we give online or through the offering plate, through our time or our talents, we give from the bottom of our hearts. Amen.

## Joys and Concerns

### Prayers of the People + the Lord's Prayer

*We will pray in groups using the printed prayer on your tables.*

**Hymn**     *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* #753

## Blessing

Family of faith, as you leave this place, may God grant you the curiosity to counter assumptions, the vulnerability to befriend, the bravery to speak your truth, the wisdom to listen, the strength to ask for help, the resiliency to choose love, even when it's hard, and the awareness of the Holy Spirit always beside you.

In the name of the Great Connector—Love itself-- go in peace.

\* Liturgy by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org