



**Community of Faith
Presbyterian Church
Sunday, September 24, 2023**

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

Regular type, leader reads; **Bold type, all read**

Gathering

**Welcome and Announcements
Lighting of the Christ Candle
Centering Music**

+Call to Worship

L: Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

P: Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into God's presence with singing!

Let us pray: **On this Lord's Day grant that we, the people you create by water and the Spirit, may be joined with all your works in praising you for your great glory. Through Jesus Christ, in union with the Holy Spirit, we praise you now and forever. Amen.**

+Hymn *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! #1*

Call to Confession

We are a people born of water and the Spirit. We have made promises to be Christ's faithful disciples, and to show his love to our life's end. Although we struggle to fulfill those baptismal vows, God's faithful love endures forever. Confident of God's grace, let us confess our sin and the sin of this world.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. (time for silent reflection)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news! Hope does not disappoint us, for God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us in baptism. Believe this good news and give thanks:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

*Glory to God whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit whose love has lifted me, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be.*

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.

Epistle Reading Philippians 1:20-30 ²⁰It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death.

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well — ³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Hymn *Fairest Lord Jesus #630*

Gospel Reading Matthew 20:1-16 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Sermon

Responding to the Word

Affirmation of Faith

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Invitation to Generosity

The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love. Amen.

Sung Response *In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful #654*

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God, do not be afraid.

Lift up your voices; the Lord is near. Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Loving God, you cause rain to fall on the just and the unjust. Hear our prayers for your church and world:

for the hungry and the overfed, **may we have enough;**

for the mourners and the mockers, **may we laugh together;**

for the victims and the oppressors, **may we share power wisely;**

for the peacemakers and the warmongers, **may clear truth and stern love lead us to harmony;**

for the silenced and the propagandists, **may we speak our own words in truth;**

for the unemployed and the overworked, **may our mark on this earth be kindly and creative;**

for the troubled and the secure, **may we live together as wounded healers;**

for the homeless and the pampered, **may our homes be simple, warm, and welcoming;**

for the vibrant and the dying, **may we all die to sin and live to love. (Silent reflection)**

Hear our praises, O God. Bring your loving presence to all these people we have named with our hearts and our voices. For it is in confidence of your abiding love and mercy that we offer this prayer and also 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.***

Going Into the World

+Hymn *Farewell, Good Friends #540 3x*

+Blessing

Go in peace into God's world to serve and help others. Go in confidence of God's presence with you. Go into this world with messages of hope and reconciliation. Go in love. Amen.

COMMUNITY OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

Contact

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Scriptures for Sunday, Oct. 1

Exodus 17:1–7
Psalm 78:1–4, 12–16
Philippians 2:1–13
Matthew 21:23–32

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Betty Murphy
Ruth Roeber
The McDermott family
Johanna Willis
The Kleier family
Jean Jennings' family
Emille Walden
Kelly Montana
Lynda Jaeger
Ron Carlin
Ella Grace Marksberry

Worship Services

Join us for in-person services at 710 Western Reserve Rd., Crescent Springs, KY. You can also worship with us online via Facebook Live, or by joining the conference call. Worship services begin at 11:15 am.

Liturgists Needed

Liturgists are needed to help lead worship. Please sign up on the sheet located on the welcome table. Thank you!

Treasurer Position Opening

The COF session is looking for a new Treasurer. The position of Treasurer is required by the Book of Order, and entails working with our accounting firm to pay bills, manage pledges and offerings, and report to session and the congregation regarding the finances of the congregation. Training will be provided. For further questions or a job description, please contact Rev. Sharon.

Peace and Global Witness Offering

Our Peace and Social Witness Offering is one of the four PCUSA offerings that we contribute to each year. Our world needs peacemaking and peacemakers, now, more than ever. The offering is generally received on World Communion Sunday, which we will celebrate on October 1. This is a call for contributions, beginning this Sunday and ending on October 1, that will be sent to PCUSA, soon. The PCUSA states the purpose of this offering as: "The Peace & Global Witness Offering offers light to those in the shadows and guides us all into the ways of peace. We come together to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world." 25% of your offering will be designated by COF for use to address local peace and justice issues in our community. Please give generously to this cause.