

*Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.*

**17th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**July 30, 2023**

*The asterisk (\*) indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

## **Silent Prayer of Preparation**

*Dear Lord, help me to focus on the Kingdom of Heaven this morning as we prepare for worship. We long to hear your voice, and recognize your presence, meet me in this quiet moment. Silence my loud, tumultuous thoughts, and grant me rest. Help me let go of my distractions, and focus on your grace that only your Kingdom can bring. Amen.*

## **Gathering Music**

### **The Gathering of God's People**

#### **Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship**

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

Paul Benoit, 1961

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## **Minute for Mission**

Stephanie Huddleston

## **\*Call to Worship**

Leader: The Kingdom of the heavens is like;

**People: a mustard seed, the smallest of seeds, but became a large tree.**

Leader: The Kingdom of the heavens is like;

**People: yeast that is leavened!**

Leader: The Kingdom of the heavens is like;

**People: treasure hidden in a field.**

Leader: The Kingdom of the heavens is like;

**People: a merchant in search of fine pearls.**

Leader: The Kingdom of heavens is like;

**People:** a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind.

**Leader:** The Kingdom of heaven is:

**ALL:** love, justice, peace and joy.

**\*Hymn**

“Here in This Place”

#401

## **The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession** (*in unison*)

**People:** Holy God, we live our lives struggling in our own burdens and failing to trust You with all the things that hold us down.

**Leader:** Your Scripture says “... I will give you rest.”

**People:** We chase material things and success that fades. We prioritize our schedules above our faith.

**Leader:** Your Scripture says “... and His righteousness.”

**People:** We live as if hope doesn’t exist. We fail to see the bigger picture of the needs of the world that You have called us to serve.

**Leader:** Your Scripture says “... because of His own purpose and grace.”

**People:** We carry grudges, avoid conflict, and live in dysfunctional relationships instead of seeking wholeness and reconciliation.

**Leader:** Your Scripture says ... “just as God in Christ forgave you.”

**People:** We don’t live as if Your promises are true. We don’t give You our whole lives and follow You in the gift of Your forgiveness.

**Leader:** Your Scripture says ... “but will have eternal life.”

**All:** Help us to daily live in the gift of Your forgiveness. Help us to serve and live holy lives out of that gift. Amen.

(Silent prayer of confession)

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Response Hymn**

“Gloria Patri”

#581

## Ministry of the Word

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Children's Sermon**

**First Scripture Reading**

Romans 8:26-39

**Organ Solo**

"St. Denio Variations"

John Lloyd, 1999

**Second Scripture Reading**

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Sermon**

"The Grace of Doing Something"

Pastor Steve Watters

## The Response to the Word

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

"What Is the World Like"

#771

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

# Invitation to Offering

**\*Response**

“Give Thanks”

#647

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

## The Sending of God’s People

**\*Closing Hymn**

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

#275

**\*Charge and Blessing**

**\*Congregational Response**

“We Are the Church”

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The first staff contains the melody for the lyrics: "I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!". The second staff contains the accompaniment for the lyrics: "All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - geth-er!".

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**\*Postlude**

"Off-Beat Fanfare"

John Lloyd, 1997

**Pastors:** Steven A. Watters

**Music Director:** Thomas Lloyd

**Liturgist:** Harriet Dana

**Organist:** Thomas Lloyd

*Harriet (Harri) Dana is a wife, mother, & grandmother. She and Bob moved to Choctaw Lake in 2011 after living in Columbus for 40 years. She is an elder, co-chairing the Property Committee with Pam Dennewitz. Harriet is passionate about flowers and can be seen on a regular basis working in the flower beds around First Presbyterian. Harriet is also known for her many travel adventures which began at the age of 11 when her father was transferred from Sunburst, Montana, to Santiago, Cuba, during the Castro revolution. Her father was subsequently transferred to Lockport, Illinois, where she attended high school. She is a graduate of Beloit College and has taken courses at The Ohio State University where she was an administrative associate for 22 years.*

*Bob & Harri have been team leaders for Marriage Encounter and Kairos Prison Ministry. Bob and Harri recently returned from a trip to Portugal and northern Spain where Bob sang in 4 cathedrals with the First Community Church Choir.*