

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 8, 2023

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

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Holy God, maker of heaven and earth, out of your great love for the world you sent us your beloved son—but we sent him to his death. Have mercy on us, O Lord; forgive us, renew us, restore us so that we may be the people of your vineyard and bear good fruit for your holy realm. Through Jesus Christ our Savior we pray. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

“Thy Word”

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: You are the Gardner who plants us. You dug deep into the soil.

People: **And brought a vine out of Egypt.**

Leader: As a master gardener, you cleared the ground, planted us deep in faith and tradition,

People: **our roots nourished by your love and grace.**

Leader: Mountains were covered by our shade.

People: **We sent branches out to every nation.**

Leader: Today, we stand weary.

People: **Burned by fire. Flooded by tears. Devoured by despair.**

Leader: Revive us, O Lord. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts.

People: **Let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

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

Loving God, you have planted us like a vineyard on a fertile hill. You cleared away the stones, planted us with choice vines, and kept watch over us by night and day. But we have not yielded the good fruit that you desired or expected. We are overgrown with sin, choked with violence and injustice. Forgive us, we pray. Uproot our evil, prune away our sin, and shower upon us the gift of your grace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn** “In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful”

#654

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children’s Sermon

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 80

Second Scripture Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Love-Song of the Vineyard”

Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Confession of 1967 (9.17)

God has created human beings for a personal relation with himself that they may respond to the love of the Creator. God has created male and female and given them a life which proceeds from birth to death in a succession of generations and in a wide complex of social relations. God has endowed humans with capacities to make the world serve their needs and to enjoy its good things. Life is a gift to be

received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage. People are free to seek life within the purpose of God: to develop and protect the resources of nature for the common welfare, to work for justice and peace in society, and in other ways to use their creative powers for the fulfillment of human life.

***Hymn** “What Does the Lord Require of You?” #70

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** “Doxology” #606

*Prayer of Dedication

The Sending of God’s People

***Closing Hymn** “How Great Thou Art” #625

*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 first line of lyrics: "I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!". The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for congregational singing.

Words and Music: Richard K. Avery and Donald S. Marsh
Words and Music © 1972 Hope Publishing Company
Used by Permission. CCLI License # 1203910

***Postlude** “Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him” arr. Anna Laura Page

Pastors: Désirée M. Youngblood

Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Liturgist: Stephanie Huddleston

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Acolytes: Devin Griggs, Nate Angel

Greeters:

Stephanie grew up in London. She has attended the First Presbyterian Church her entire life. She has been very active in the church, serving in many ways. Currently, Stephanie is an elder and also chairs the Mission Committee.

Stephanie and her husband, Richard, have two sons ... Dustin and Bryan, and 5 grandchildren. Stephanie taught at London Schools for 30 years before retiring. Now, she and her husband divide their time between London and Florida.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT DATES

Oct 8: Blood Pressure Screening, after worship

Oct 9: Church office is closed in observance of Columbus Day

Oct 11: Stewardship Commission meeting

Oct 12: Mission Committee meeting

Oct 15: Membership Committee meeting, after the service

A NOTE FROM THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee is forming a short-term subcommittee to create a new job description for the Christian Education director. If you would like to serve on this subcommittee, please contact Hope Smith at

hopemiller1994@gmail.com .

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

We will celebrate the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 22, 2023 on the front lawn of the church, at 1:00 PM. Please bring your beloved pet for their blessing. If you cannot bring your pet with you, bring a photo so they may receive their blessing. Plan to bring a blanket or chair to sit on.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Can you hear the Jingle Bell song playing in your head?

Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about ordering your Christmas

poinsettias. Your order will need to be in by November 7.

The order form can be found at the end of the announcements. If you order a poinsettia, remember that it can be taken home after the 7:30 pm Christmas Eve service...or you can make a donation to Generation to Generation Fund in honor or in memory of someone. You can place your order & payment/donation in the offering plate or mail to the church. Thank you.

WELCOME TABLE MEAL

The next Welcome Table meal will be this **Thursday, October 12**. Presently about 50 meals are being served. The following is needed for the meal:

- Chicken & Stuffing Casserole (**recipe is on the snack table in the Narthex**)
- Dinner Rolls
- Any Dessert

Remember, it is best to use a disposable pan. The food will need to be delivered to the **St. Paul AME Church, located at 11 W. Center Street, London, between 4:30-5:00 PM**. Thank you for your support. ~ Dolly McDonley

LOVING KINDNESS MEAL FOR 150

The church is hosting the Loving Kindness meal on **Monday, October 16**. The following donations and volunteers are needed:

- 7 boxes Little Debbie Oatmeal Cookies (regular size)
- 3-4 SERVERS 2:00-4:30 (in church Narthex).

Please notify Debbie Blaho if you want to help:

(email dblaho@columbus.rr.com or call (614) 736-5126).

MARTHA GEIB SCHOLARSHIP

We are getting ready for the Martha Geib Online Auction which will be the first Saturday in November. The money raised in Martha's memory is donated to London Schools and Madison Plains for scholarships for seniors who embodied Martha's belief of giving back to their community.

As always, we are looking for anyone who would like to donate to the auction either with items or with a gift of money. Please feel free to contact Stephanie Huddleston 740-506-0012 or rshuddleston@columbus.rr.com with questions.

TRUNK OR TREAT NIGHT

The Fellowship Committee would like to invite you and your family to **Trunk Or Treat** night at the church! It will be on Friday, October 27th from 4:30-6:30pm.

If you would like to volunteer to pass out candy, please contact the church at 740-852-1215 or email londonfirstpres@gmail.com Please feel free to dress up and/or decorate your car!

We are also going to invite the children from the PCC. Invite your friends and neighbors. We are hoping to have a big turn out and would love to see you there!

PRAYER LINE

All requests to be submitted to Shelley Jones at shelley.j.jones8@gmail.com or 614-425-7570. For now, you can still send emails to sjbailey19@gmail.com. Due to privacy issues, please make sure any prayer request is with consent of the person concerned. Let the pastor know when her presence is needed. If you wish to have prayer concerns lifted during the worship service, please email the church office.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you wish to provide a poinsettia for our Christmas Eve Services ... please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or mail to the church office (PO Box 226), **along with your check.** *We are purchasing the poinsettias from London Florist. **DEADLINE** for placing your order is **Tuesday, November 7, 2023.*** We will order a variety of colors for the Christmas season. Or, you can make a memorial gift to the Generation to Generation Fund.

6" Potted POINSETTIA ORDERS

Given in **Honor Of:**

Given in **Memory Of:**

to be picked up after 7:30 service: _____ # to be donated: _____
TOTAL # _____ poinsettias ordered X **\$14.00 each** for a **total of \$**_____

Given By:

Phone: _____

SPECIAL GIFT FOR GENERATION TO GENERATION FUND

Given in **Honor Of:**

Given in **Memory Of:**