



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 18, 2020 – 8:30 a.m.

Worship Music

Welcome

Call to Worship

Where can we go from God's spirit? Where can we flee from God's presence?

There is nowhere we can go where God cannot find and help us.

If we stray so far from God's path that we cannot find our way back,

even there, God's hand will keep us.

Even if darkness covers us and we can see no light,

the night is as bright as the day, for God is the light of the world.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God. How vast is the sum of them!

I try to count them. They are more than the sand. I come to the end. I am still with you.

Come, let us worship the Lord!

(adapted and used with permission, revolution blog, Rev. Mindi on Worship Resources)

Hymn

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us

**God of compassion, in mercy befriend us,
giver of grace for our needs all-availing.
Wisdom and strength for each day ever send us,
patience untiring and courage unailing.**

**Though we are lost, you have sought us and found us,
stilled our rude hearts with your word of consoling.
Wrap now your peace, like a mantle, around us,
guarding our thoughts and our passions controlling.**

**How shall we stray, with your hand to direct us,
you who the stars in their courses are guiding?
What shall we fear, with your power to protect us,
we who walk forth in your greatness confiding?**

Prayer of Confession

Forgiving God, we are humbled by your love for us, especially when we know we have failed you by what we have said and left unsaid; by what we have done and left undone. We have refused to forgive though others have forgiven us. We have been quick to see the speck in another's eye without noticing the log in our own. We have judged and withheld care to our detriment. We have insisted on our own way without concern for the hurt it causes those around us. We have built walls and barriers that damage relationships with those we are called to love. We cannot save ourselves from the anger, estrangement, hurt, and unfairness we feel. We need your arms of healing around us. As you work to redeem and restore the world, show us where and how to forgive. Open our eyes to see our faults, open our mouths to ask for forgiveness, open our hearts to accept your mercy and to grant your forgiveness to others, not just seven times, or seventy, but as often as you ask. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you.**

Anthem

Come, Ye Sinners Poor and Needy
Paige DeJarnett, Emily Jackson
Words by Joseph Hart; Music from Walker's *Southern Harmony*

*Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power.*

*[Refrain] I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.*

*Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome; God's free bounty glorify,
true belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh. [Refrain]*

*Come, ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;
if you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all. [Refrain]*

*Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream;
all the fitness he requireth is to feel your need of him. [Refrain]*

Hearing the Word

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church^[a] sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven^[b] times."²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents^[c] was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii;^[d] and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister^[e] from your heart."

Engaging with the Word

Soul Care: Forgiveness

Covenant of Baptism

Introduction

Baptismal Vows

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God the Son?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Baptism

Congregational Vow

Ross is received into the holy catholic church, as an active member of this congregation. He has affirmed his Christian discipleship. Through baptism, God has made him a member of the household of faith. Do we, the members of this congregation, commit ourselves to pray for him, to nurture and love him, to teach and show him the Christian faith, and to help him to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ?

We do! With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you! We promise to pray for you, to love, encourage, and support you, to share the good news of the gospel with you, and to help you know, love, and serve Christ.

Offering Ourselves to God

Song

We Are an Offering

We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.

Lord, use our voices; Lord use our hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering.

All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.

We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering.

Joys, Concerns, and Prayers of the People

Hymn

Hear the Good News of Salvation

**Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.
Such great kindness! Such great Mercy! Come to us from above.**

**[Refrain] Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!
How I love you! Look up-on me. Love me still and cleanse with-in.**

**All the sins I have committed, to my Savior now I bring.
I bow down with tears of anguish; Christ forgives and so I sing: [Refrain]**

Benediction