

**First Presbyterian Church of Springfield**  
**Order of Worship for the Eighth Sunday After Pentecost**

**July 26, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.**

Worship Leader: Howard Bradley

Moment with Young Disciples: Stacey Willoughby

Organist: Mike Belote

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson

**Call to Worship**

A tiny seed that burgeons into a majestic tree with branches that offer shelter and shade;  
or yeast, hidden within a bushel of flour, that transforms the dough in due time:

**this is what the kingdom of God is like.**

We gather around Jesus—our teacher and Lord—seeking wisdom and understanding, and  
by his Word and Spirit, we receive a foretaste of the kingdom of God.

**Let anyone with ears to hear listen!**

**Prayer of the Day Lord God of the nations, you have revealed your will to all  
people and promised us your saving help. May we hear and do what you  
command, that the darkness may be overcome by the power of your light,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy  
Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise**

“Be Thou My Vision”

*Glory to God #450*

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou  
art; thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence  
my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with  
me, Lord; thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tower; raise thou me  
heavenward, O Power of my power.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise; thou mine inheritance, now and  
always; thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my  
treasure thou art.**

**High King of Heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright  
heaven’s Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O  
Ruler of all.**

**Call to Confession God has shown his amazing love in this: while we were sinners  
Christ died for us. Because we have faith, we dare to approach God with confidence. Let us  
join in our unison prayer of confession.**

**Prayer of Confession** Dear God, your kingdom confounds us. You challenge our assumptions and expand our understanding of what holds worth. Your kingdom surprises us with grace upon grace. But we cling to the values of this world, which elevate products over people, success over service to others, and competition for resources rather than the common good. By your Spirit, reorder our priorities until they reflect your wellbeing for all. Open our hearts to new ways of living that embody your love for creation and contribute to a commonwealth marked by justice and joy. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon** Hear the good news: the Lord does not treat us as our sins deserve. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God's love for those who revere him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our transgressions from us. **Thanks be to God!**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

**Prayer for Illumination** God, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out on us your Spirit of wisdom and understanding so that our hearts and minds may be opened to hear what you say to us today. Amen.

**Old Testament Passage** 1 Kings 3:5 – 12

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Moment with Young Disciples**

**Musical Interlude** "God Moves in a Mysterious Way" William Cowper

God moves in a mysterious way, / His wonders to perform. / He plants his footsteps in the sea, / And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines / Of never-failing skill / He treasures up his bright designs, / And works His sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take: / The clouds ye so much dread / Are big with mercy, and shall break / In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, / But trust him for his grace; / Behind a frowning providence, / He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast, / Unfolding ev'ry hour; / The bud may have a bitter taste, / But sweet will be the flow'r.

Blind unbelief is sure to err, / And scan his work in vain; / God is his own interpreter, / And he will make it plain.

**New Testament Passage** Matthew 13:31 – 33, 44 – 52

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "God's Ways Are Higher than Our Ways" The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson

## Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from *The Confession of 1967*, 9.32-33

**The life, death, resurrection, and promised return of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human wellbeing. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his return, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.**

## Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

**Call to Offering** In gratitude to God for all that he has provided for us, let us present our gifts and offerings.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication** Majestic God, we are amazed that you count us among your children. You have adopted us as brothers and sisters of Christ your Son. Open our eyes to see every human being as your beloved child. Send your Spirit to guide us to live as citizens of your heavenly kingdom. Let our church embody a generous way of giving to others in this world, which will one day be conformed to your reign. We ask this for the sake of Jesus, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

**Hymn of Dedication** "Give to the Winds Thy Fears" *Glory to God* #815

Give to the winds thy fears; hope and be undismayed. God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears; God shall lift up thy head.

Through waves and clouds and storms God gently clears the way. Wait patiently; so shall this night soon end in joyous day.

Leave to God's sovereign sway to choose and to command. So shall thou, wondering, own God's way, how wise, how strong God's hand!

Let us in life, in death, thy steadfast truth declare, and publish with our final breath thy love and guardian care.

## **Invitation to Discipleship and Benediction**

## Announcements

Sunday, July 26, 2020

**Midweek Bible Study** “Heat and Light, or The Confession and The Question” are the themes of chapter 4 of Jonah in our study which meets at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 29, via Zoom. This is the link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85426343714> . Email Pastor Rosanna [rosanna@pastorrosanna.net](mailto:rosanna@pastorrosanna.net) for the password.

**Adult Sunday School** “The Practice of Self-Emptying: Rediscovering the Fast” is the theme of chapter 6 in *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life* by Marjorie Thompson. Pastor Rosanna will lead the class on July 19 at 9:45 a.m. via Zoom at this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86415059778> . Pastor Rosanna has the password.

**Coming Soon: Project JOY!** School supplies, but no clothing, are needed this year for our contribution to the Appalachian Ministry to the children of Harlan, Kentucky. All the details are in a special email for the congregation.

**Mission Opportunities** Please contact Ross or Linda Thomas for drop off information.

Loose Change for The Master’s Table

Plastic Bags for Meals on Wheels

United Ministries Food Item for July and August: Powdered Milk

**Prayer List** Look over our list and if you know of someone who needs to be added, notify Administrative Assistant Megan Lowe at the church office at [1stprez@bellsouth.net](mailto:1stprez@bellsouth.net). Please provide the address for those who are not church members so that we may send them a prayer card.

May we keep in our prayers all the individuals and families affected by Covid-19.

“God will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”  
(Revelation 21:3b-4)

Linda Alldredge	Rhonda Baldwin	Alison Barnwell	Dale Boyter	Ethelene Burnett
Louis Burnett	Kyle Craighead	Rush Limbaugh	Betty Murphy	Jerry Stuard
Family of Mike Frost		Family of Mickey Hyde		

**Worship Services Online** We will continue to celebrate Sunday worship services online until further notice. We have suspended all congregational and public gatherings in our church facilities to help stop the spread of Covid-19. Join us for worship on YouTube [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7GCqiHtl7JXZln1\\_fzePSg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7GCqiHtl7JXZln1_fzePSg) at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. A more information is posted on the church’s Facebook page and our website <https://www.springfieldpres.org/> .