

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

September 13, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson

Organist: Mike Belote

Worship Leader: Stacey Willoughby

Moment with Young Disciples: Linda Thomas

Welcome and Announcements

We Approach God

Call to Worship

God is majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, and worthy of our highest praise.

Who is like the Lord?

God blew back the waters, prepared a path through the sea, and appeared as a pillar of fire to light the pilgrim way.

Who is like the Lord?

The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

Let us sing to the Lord who triumphs gloriously!

Prayer of the Day **God of mercy, help us to forgive, as you have forgiven us. Help us to trust you, even when hope is failing. Help us to take up our cross daily and follow you in your redeeming work. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

Glory to God 35

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth, shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth! Hast thou not seen how thy desires e’er have been granted in what he ordaineth?

Call to Confession First John 2:2 says, “Children of God, I am speaking these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.” In faith, let us join in our prayer of confession.

Prayer of Confession **Merciful God, we are quick to ask for grace when we have fallen short, for patience when we have stubbornly turned away from you. Why are we slow to show the same mercy to others? We keep track of wrongs**

and cling to old hurts, rather than offering the forgiveness that could free others and ourselves. We strive to be more faithful, Lord; we want to be more loving. So, we kneel before you once again to ask for grace. Transform us, we pray. Pour out your mercy upon us, until it flows forth from us through acts of love. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon Rejoice and be glad! God is full of mercy, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Believe in the gift of a new beginning and be at peace. **Thanks be to God!**

God Speaks to Us Through God's Word

Prayer for Illumination Holy God, guide us by your Spirit of truth so that we may hear the Word of life you speak to us today. May we give you all honor, glory, and praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Old Testament Passage Exodus 14:19 – 31

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

Moment with Young Disciples

New Testament Passage Matthew 18:21 – 35

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

Sermon “Harrowing Passages” The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson

We Respond to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith

A Brief Statement of Faith, 11.3

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

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 the Offering Friends, “Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights” (James 1:17). Let us present God’s tithes and our offerings.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication O Lord, our God, you graciously welcome all who seek you. We are grateful that you have taught us your commandments so that we may live as people who belong to you. Guide us by your Spirit so that our attitudes toward others and our daily actions will honor you. Let the ministries of our church reach out to show and tell our neighbors of your faithful love. Receive our gifts and offerings for the sake of Jesus, our Lord. **Amen.**

God Sends Us into the World

Hymn of Dedication “Rejoice, the Lord Is King!” *Glory to God 363*

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore. Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Our Savior, Jesus, reigns, the God of truth and love; when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above. Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o’er earth and heaven; the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given. Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come and gather all the saints to their eternal home. Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Invitation to Discipleship and Benediction

Announcements

Sunday, September 13, 2020

Zoom Coffee Hour After worship, please join us for virtual fellowship via Zoom.

Adult Sunday School Our new series, *Love for One Another* is *The Present Word: Fall 2020* curriculum. Copies are available in the Church Office. We will meet with Pastor Rosanna via Zoom at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays. The link is in the congregational email.

“Wisdom in Proverbs” We will begin a new midweek Bible study series on Wednesday, September 23, at 2:00 p.m.

Project JOY! Your generous donation of school supplies for the Appalachian Ministry will certainly bless the children of Harlan, Kentucky. Thank you to all who contributed.

Mission Opportunities Please contact Ross or Linda Thomas for drop off information at 615-772-4870. We are collecting **loose change** for The Master’s Table, **plastic bags** for Meals on Wheels, and the targeted food items are **peanut butter and jelly**.

Prayer List If you know of someone who needs to be added to our list, please notify Administrative Assistant Megan Lowe at the church office at 1stprez@bellsouth.net. Provide the address for those who are not church members so we may send them a prayer card. We **give thanks to God for the birth of Bryson Thomas Alexander**, son of Will and Jonna Alexander!

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

Linda Alldredge	Alison Barnwell	Dale Boyter	Ethelene Burnett
Louis Burnett	Kyle Craighead	Phyllis Gunn	Paige Kerr
Amanda Martelli	Charley Mirabile	Betty Murphey	Jerry Stuard

Bereaved Families: Family of Mike Frost, Mickey Hyde, Ben Lewis, and Sue Reynolds

Worship Services Online Out of concern for our congregation and community, we have suspended all congregational and public gatherings in our church facilities while COVID-19 is circulating. Join us for worship on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7GCqiHtl7JXZln1_fzePSg at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. More information is posted on the church's Facebook page and our website <https://www.springfieldpres.org/>.