

# First Presbyterian Church of Springfield

## Order of Worship for the Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

November 8, 2020 at 11:15 a.m.

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson

Organist: Mike Belote

Worship Leader: Rosemary Sprague

### Welcome and Announcements

#### We Approach God

#### Call to Worship

Psalm 78

Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

**I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.**

That which we have heard and known, and what our ancestors have told us, we will not hide from their children.

**We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, and the wonderful works God has done.**

**Prayer of the Day God of pilgrims, strengthen our faith, we pray. Guide us through the uncertainties of our journey. Hold before us the vision of your eternal kingdom, made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

#### Hymn of Praise

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

*Glory to God* 104

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright? Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight! O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast, to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me; your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty. O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace in love, all loves excelling, your lost and fallen race.

You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill, to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still. In patient expectation we live for that great day when your renewed creation your glory shall display.

**Call to Confession** God has graciously opened the gates of righteousness to us through the obedience of Christ. In faith, let us confess our sin.

**Prayer of Confession** Gracious God, your Son Jesus tells us to keep awake, urging us to watch with expectant hope as we wait for you to reveal yourself in our midst. We confess that sometimes we grow tired of looking for signs of your presence among us. We become weary from distressing news and convince ourselves that you are far off. Forgive us for being careless with the tasks you

**expect of us that would prepare us to encounter you. Send your Spirit to sustain us in faith and keep us ever watchful so that we may be ready to greet Christ with joy when he returns in glory. We pray in his name. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon** Hear the good news: Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Believe the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

### God Speaks to Us Through God's Word

**Prayer for Illumination** Our good God, enlighten us by your Holy Spirit in true understanding of your holy Word, enabling us to handle it faithfully and to receive it in true reverence and humility. May we be taught by Scripture to put our full confidence in you, that we may glorify your holy name with our whole life and edify our neighbors by our good example. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

**Old Testament** Joshua 24:1 – 3a, 13-25 The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Moment with Young Disciples**

**New Testament** Matthew 25:1 – 13 The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** "Hurry Up and Wait" The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson

### We Respond to God's Word

**Affirmation of Faith** *The Second Helvetic Confession, 5.077*

**We teach and believe that Jesus Christ our Lord is the unique and eternal Savior of the human race, and thus of the whole world, in whom by faith are saved all who before the law, under the law, and under the Gospel were saved, and however many will be saved at the end of the world. For the Lord himself says in the Gospel: '[Whoever] does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way is a thief and a robber.... I am the door of the sheep' (Jn 10:1, 7). And also in another place in the same Gospel he says: 'Abraham saw my day and was glad' (8:56). The apostle Peter also says: 'There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.' We therefore believe that we will be saved through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, as our [ancestors] were (Acts 4:12, 10:43, 15:11). For Paul also says: 'All our [ancestors] ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock which followed them, and the Rock was Christ' (I Cor 10:3f). And thus we read that John also says: 'Christ was the Lamb which was slain from the foundation of the world' (Rev 13:8), and John the Baptist testified that Christ is the 'Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world' (Jn 1:29). Wherefore, we quite openly profess and preach that Jesus Christ is the sole Redeemer and Savior of the world, the King and High Priest, the true and awaited Messiah, that holy and blessed one whom all the types of the law and predictions of the prophets prefigured and promised; and that God appointed him beforehand and sent him to us, so that we are not now to look for any other.**

## 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** “The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it: the world, and those who live in it” (Ps 24:1). In gratitude, let us return to God the offerings of our life.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication** O Lord our God, you are completely righteous and good. In Christ, you call us to worship you in Spirit and truth. Help us to connect our faith with our daily actions. Thank you for the freedom to worship you. Please protect our Christian brothers and sisters in every land. May our church contribute to an unending flow of justice for those in need. Let our lives and offerings be pleasing in your sight. We pray through Christ your Son. **Amen.**

### God Sends Us into the World

**Hymn of Dedication** “When Peace Like a River” *Glory to God 840*

When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul. It is well with my soul; it is well; it is well with my soul.

He lives: O the bliss of this glorious thought. My sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul.

Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; even so it is well with my soul.

**Invitation to Discipleship and Benediction** Dr. Anderson

## Announcements

Sunday, November 8, 2020

**Adult Sunday School** “Abiding Love” in John 15 is our lesson via Zoom at 9:45 a.m.

**Zoom Coffee (Half) Hour** Join us for a time to chat with friends right after worship!

**Wisdom in the Gospels** We will learn about “Wisdom's Vindication” in Matthew 11 at our midweek Bible study with Pastor Rosanna this Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**Mission Update** Missions bring us together even when we can't be physically together. The annual county-wide Thanksgiving Meal at **The Master's Table** has been canceled due to Covid-19 restrictions. They will continue to serve a daily meal at 11:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday. Donations are not limited to loose change. Maybe you can provide a turkey, a ham, green beans, or rolls? Anything is appreciated!

For the **United Ministries Food Bank**, our monthly food item donations are sadly lacking. We had zero cans of fruit for October; however, we did have several jars of peanut butter and jelly for September. Here's the solution: when we go to purchase groceries. put the item on your grocery list every week. November's item is macaroni and cheese. Free pick-up

and delivery of items for these important food ministries are available. If needed, please contact Ross Thomas, Anne Looney, or Rosemary Sprague.

**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](mailto:1stprez@bellsouth.net). Please provide an address if the person is not a church member so we may send them a prayer card.

Linda Alldredge Dale Boyter Ethelene Burnett Louis Burnett Lily Rae Davis  
Betty Murphey Jerry Stuard Tommy Percello Elizabeth Read Wilks Family  
all individuals and families affected by Covid-19 all affected by wildfires in CA, OR, CO

**Worship Services Online** Out of love and concern for our congregation and community, we have suspended all congregational and public gatherings in our church facilities while COVID-19 is circulating in Robertson County. Join us for worship on YouTube [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7GCqiHtl7JXZln1\\_fzePSg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7GCqiHtl7JXZln1_fzePSg) at 11:15 a.m. on Sundays. More information is posted on the church's Facebook page and our website <https://www.springfieldpres.org/>.