



Celebration of Worship on the Lord's Day

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 23, 2018



Westminster Peal

Prelude

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

arr. by Jan Sanborn

Welcome and Church Family Life

Choral Call to Worship *"Here in This Place (Gather Us In)"* by Marty Haugen

*We are the young, our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.*

*Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.*

† **Gathering as the Children of God**

Rev. Susan Haynes

One: Who is wise and understanding among us?

**All: *Those who seek wisdom and understanding each and every day.
Those who delight in God and meditate on God's law.***

One: Come, learn more about the wisdom from above, a wisdom that yields a harvest of righteousness.

All: *O God, your wisdom is more precious than jewels! We draw near to you.*

† **Hymn No. 464**

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

† **Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

Elder Hannah Hagenau

O God, we live our lives as best we can— dealing with difficult relationships and situations, putting failures and disappointments behind us, and moving into each new day with as much energy, goodwill, and optimism as we can muster. But here, right now, we seldom have the right answers, we seldom seek your higher wisdom in our lives, we just move ahead. Forgive us for not asking for your insight. Fill us with your wisdom, that we may live lives of goodness and peace. Amen.

† **Assurance of Pardon**

Elder Hagenau

One: God forgives you when you but ask. Friends, believe the Good News.

All: *In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

† Those who are able, please stand

"In words of scripture the people are called to confess the reality of sin in personal and common life. Claiming the promises of God sealed in our baptism, we humbly confess our sin. Having confessed our sin, we remember the promises of God's redemption, and the claims God has on all human life. The assurance of God's forgiving grace is declared in the name of Jesus Christ. We accept God's forgiveness, confident that in dying to sin, God raises us to new life." - The PC (USA) Book of Common Worship

† **Response** *“Glory to the Father”* (Hymn no. 567)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Amen. Amen.

† **Passing of the Peace** Rev. Haynes
One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.
Please exchange greetings of peace and welcome with your neighbor.



Prayer for Illumination Rev. Ricardo Green

Scripture Lesson (p. 570 OT) Psalm 1 Rev. Green

“Children of the Heavenly Father” is a setting of the Swedish folk tune, Tryggare kan ingen vara.

Anthem/Special Music *“Children of the Heavenly Father”* by James Melby
*Children of the heavenly Father safely in his bosom gather; Nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge ne’er was given.
God his own doth tend and nourish, In his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them, In his mighty arms he bears them.
Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord his children sever.
Unto them his grace he showeth, And their sorrows all he knoweth.
Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne’er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.*

Scripture Lesson (p. 216 NT) James 3:13-4:3;7-8a Rev. Haynes
One: This is the word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon *“Which Would You Choose?”* Rev. Haynes

† **Affirmation of Faith** The Confession of 1967
God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of our minds. Human thought ascribes to God’s superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful people. The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love.



† **Hymn No. 434** *“Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”*



Offering

Offertory

"Voluntary"

by Samuel Jackson

† Response

The Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

† Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Green

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.

† Closing Hymn 355

"Hear the Good News of Salvation"

† Benediction

Rev. Haynes

† Congregation Response *(hymn no. 570)*

"Amen"

† Postlude

"Organ Solo from a Concerto"

by Thomas Arne

† Those who are able, please stand

"This text, originally appearing in four stanzas, was written by the first Native American Dakota to be ordained to the Presbyterian ministry and was published in the Dakota hymnal he edited." - Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal



MVPC Mission Statement

Blessed to Be a Blessing

We are a Presbyterian church filled with love and energy – an inclusive congregation committed to spiritual growth through *worship, study, fellowship, and service*.

- As **children of God**, we seek to *praise* God in worship and in all that we say and do
- As **disciples of Jesus Christ**, we *listen* to scripture, tradition, one another, and the world in order to understand God's will for us as individuals and as a community
- As **members of a family of faith**, we strive to *love* one another unconditionally, sharing our joys and standing beside one another in our struggles
- **Moved by the Spirit**, we *serve* our gracious God by taking that with which we have been blessed and turning it into blessings for others.



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