



Celebration of Worship on the Lord's Day

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 30, 2018



Westminster Peal

Prelude "Piano Sonata Op. 49 No. 1, I" by Beethoven

Welcome and Church Family Life Rev. Susan Haynes

Choral Call to Worship "Here in This Place (Gather Us In)" by Marty Haugen
*Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven lightyears away:
Here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

† **Gathering as the Children of God** Rev. Haynes

One: We will walk this day with you, O God, and you will walk with us,
All: Gathering us into a community to pray for one another in all things.
One: We will walk this day with you, O Christ, and you will walk with us,
All: Calling us to follow you, helping us to set aside all which holds us back.
One: We will walk this day with you, O Spirit, and you will walk with us,
All: Sending us out, side by side, to serve those cast aside by the world.

† **Hymn No. 487** "When Morning Gilds the Sky"

† **Prayer of Confession** (unison) Rev. Haynes

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love. We have not loved our neighbors, and we have refused to hear the cry of the needy. Forgive us we pray. Free us for joyful obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

† **Assurance of Pardon** Rev. Haynes

One: God forgives you when you but ask. Friends, believe the Good News.
All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

† **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.**

† Those who are able, please stand

† 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

Elizabeth Small

Scripture Lesson (p. 540 OT)

Psalm 124

Elizabeth Small

Anthem/Special Music

“Go and Tell John”

by Lloyd Pfautsch

Go and tell John what you see and hear... that the blind recover their sight.

Go and tell John what you see and hear... that the lame are able to walk.

Go and tell John what you see and hear... that the deaf are able to hear.

Go tell John, tell him what you see and hear... that the sick regain their health.

Go tell John, tell him what you see and hear... that the dead are raised to life.

Happy are the ones who come to me, happy are the ones who believe in me,

For they shall see God.

Scripture Lesson (p. 217 NT)

James 5:13-20

Rev. Ricardo Green

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“God Exists and He is Real”

Rev. Green

† Affirmation of Faith

The Confession of 1967

Rev. Green

The church responds to the message of reconciliation in praise and prayer. In that response, it commits itself afresh to its mission, experiences a deepening of faith and obedience, and bears open testimony to the gospel. Adoration of God is acknowledgment of the Creator by the creation. Confession of sin is admission of our guilt before God and of our need for his forgiveness. Thanksgiving is rejoicing in God’s goodness to all people and in giving for the needs of others. Petitions and intercessions are addressed to God for the continuation of his goodness, the healing of humanity’s ills, and the deliverance from every form of oppression. The arts, especially music and architecture, contribute to the praise and prayer of a Christian congregation when they help us to look beyond ourselves to God and to the world which is the object of his love.



† Hymn No. 394

“There is a Balm in Gilead”

Lloyd Pfautsch (1921-2003) served for almost 40 years as Professor of Sacred Music and Director of Choral Music at Southern Methodist University and published more than 300 compositions.

This African American spiritual offers a long-delayed answer to the prophet Jeremiah’s question, “Is there no balm in Gilead?” (Jeremiah 8:22). No earthly remedy can compare with the healing that comes from a sense of God’s presence; nothing else can heal “the sin-sick soul.” Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal



Moved by the Spirit

“Lake Forest Candy”

Elizabeth Small

Offering

Offertory

“Sonata Op. 56, II”

by Alexandre Guilmant

† **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**

Elizabeth Small

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 No. 380**

“O Christ, the Healer”

† **Benediction**

Rev. Green

† **Congregation Response** (hymn no. 570)

“Amen”

† **Postlude**

“Fantasie in C Major”

by G. F. Handel

† Those who are able, please stand

“Christian tradition has regarded [the Lord’s Prayer] as a prayer that sums up all our petitions, appropriate for all occasions. From the time of the Didache (late first or early second century), the Lord’s Prayer has held a privileged place among Christian prayers. As adult candidates were prepared for baptism, the Lord’s Prayer was “handed over” and expounded to them along with the creed as an integral part of their catechesis... The sixteenth-century reformers, with their emphasis on edification, retained this expectation and used the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Ten Commandments as the basis for their catechisms.” From “The Lord’s Prayer in Worship” by B.D. Stuhlman



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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<http://mvpchurch.org/index.php/donate/>

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