



Celebration of Worship on the Lord's Day

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 9, 2018



Westminster Peal

- Prelude** "Sweet By and By" arr. by Pepper Choplin
- Choral Call to Worship** "I Rejoiced When I Heard Them Say (Psalm 122)"
by Bernadette Farrell

*I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to the house of God."
And now our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem!
For the love of my friends and kin I will bless you with signs of peace.
For the love of God's own people I will labor and pray for you.
Shalom, shalom, the peace of God be here. Shalom, shalom, God's justice be ever near.*

- † **Gathering as the Children of God** Rev. Ricardo Green
- One: We can trust God.
All: God is like the mountain: rock solid.
- One: God loves all the people:
All: the poor, the disabled, the outcast, the stranger.
- One: We can depend on God.
All: God feeds the hungry, heals the sick, and restores relationships.
- One: Praise our Loving God.
All: Praise God! Hallelujah!

- † **Hymn No. 430** "Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!"

- Prayer of Confession** (*unison*) Elder Katherine Koops
- Gracious God, we come before you today knowing that we often fall short of your call to love one another well. We allow ourselves to be blinded by wealth and power. We ignore those around us who suffer injustice, poverty, and rejection. We tune out the cries of the poor and those on the edges of our communities. Help us to see your great generosity, hear your word of mercy, and feel your great love for all who need your redemptive grace. Strengthen us to reach out in service to those who are in need. Make us aware of those outside our own communities, that we may see them as your precious children and serve them in humility and joy. May we continue to grow in grace as we learn how to serve you in the name of the great Servant, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Elder Koops

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.



K. Lee Scott (b. 1950) is an internationally known teacher, musician, conductor and composer of sacred music, choral music, and hymns, residing in Birmingham, Alabama.

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Green

Scripture Lesson (p. 570 OT)

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Anthem/Special Music

“The Tree of Life”

by K. Lee Scott

There in God’s garden, stands the Tree of Wisdom, whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations: Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion, Tree of all beauty. Its name is Jesus, name that says, “Our Savior!” There on its branches see the scars of suffering; see where the tendrils of our human selfhood feed on its lifeblood.

Thorns not his own are tangled in its foliage; our greed has starved it, our despite has choked it. Yet, look! It lives! Its grief has not destroyed it nor fire consumed it. See how its branches reach to us in welcome; hear what the Voice says, “Come to me, ye weary! Give me your sickness give me all your sorrow, I will give you blessing.”

This is my ending, this my resurrection; into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit. This have I searched for; now I can possess it. This ground is holy.

All heaven is singing, “Thanks to Christ whose Passion offers in mercy healing, strength and pardon. Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!” Amen! My Master!

Scripture Lesson

James 2:1-10, 14-17

Rev. Susan Haynes

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: ***Thanks be to God.***

Sermon

“Dead Faith”

Rev. Haynes

† Affirmation of Faith

from The Westminster Confession of Faith

Good works, done in obedience to God’s commandments, are the fruits and evidences of a true and lively faith: and by them believers manifest their thankfulness, strengthen their assurance, edify others, adorn the profession of the gospel, stop the mouths of the adversaries, and glorify God, whose workmanship they are, created in Christ Jesus thereunto, that, having their fruit unto holiness, they may have the end, eternal life. Their ability to do good works is not at all of themselves, but wholly from the Spirit of Christ.

“In 1647, the Scottish General Assembly adopted the Westminster Standards for use in the church, replacing the Scots Confession of 1560 and the Heidelberg Catechism. The standards came to New England with the Puritans (Independents) and to the Middle Atlantic states with the Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. In 1729, the standards were adopted as the confessional position of the newly organized Presbyterian synod in the colonies and have played a formative role in American Presbyterianism ever since.”
From the PC(USA) Book of Confessions



† Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Please exchange greetings of peace and welcome with your neighbor.

† Hymn No. 367 (hymnal)

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

Church Family Life

Please take this time to pass the attendance notebooks located at the end of the pew row. If you are a visitor, we invite you to visit our information center located in the Narthex.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Green



Offering

Offertory *"Keyboard Sonata in E Major, K. 531"* by Domenico Scarlatti

† 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.

† Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

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. 422 (hymnal)

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

† Benediction

Rev. Haynes

† Congregation Response (hymn no. 570)

"Amen"

† Postlude

"To God Be the Glory"

by William Doane, arr. by Mary Ellen Kerrick

† Those who are able, please stand

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" was written by Tom Colvin, a missionary of the Church of Scotland in Malawi and Ghana, who used a Ghanaian folk song as the foundation for the lyrics and melody.



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.



Giving to MVPC is easy online
<http://mvpchurch.org/index.php/donate/>

MVPC Staff

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TJ Shirley, Minister of Worship & Arts
Elizabeth Small, Dir. of Youth Ministry
Rev. Ricardo Green, Pastor of Spanish Ministries
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Steve Ray, Church Finance & Operations
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