

SUNDAY, 27 AUGUST 2023

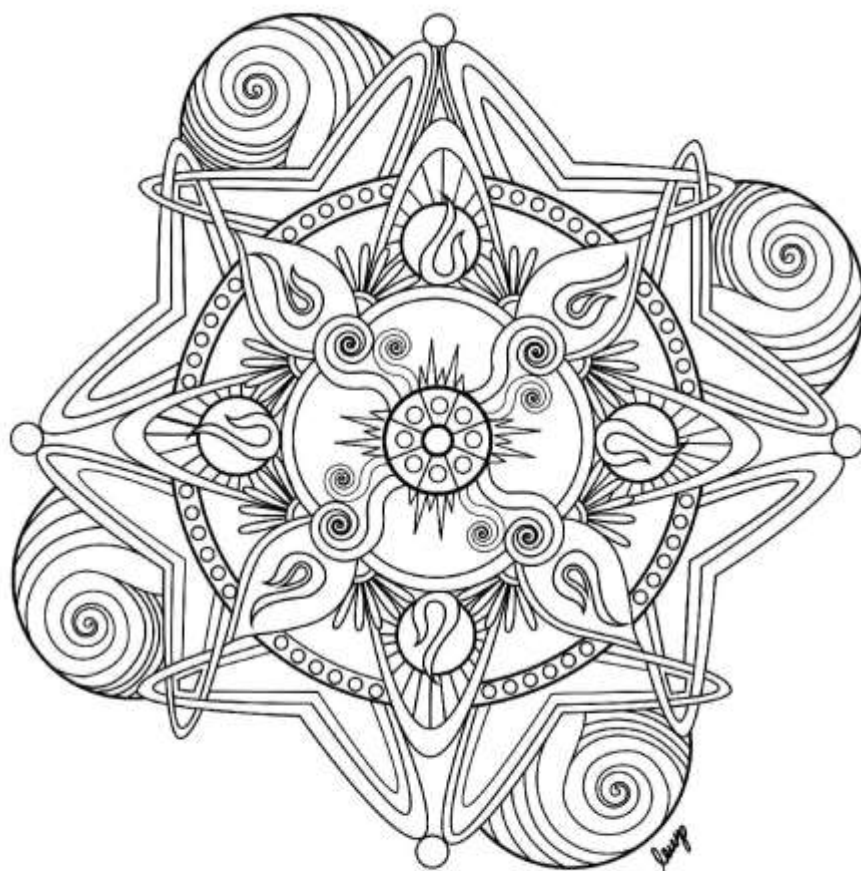
THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WESTMINSTER CHURCH

A Presbyterian Church, USA
in the Presbytery of the Great Rivers

1420 West Moss Avenue + Peoria Illinois 61606

www.westminsterpeoria.org



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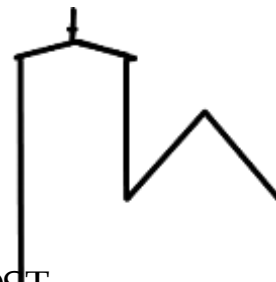
Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you and favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving all behind that hinders us, we may fix our eyes on him and steadfastly follow in the paths of your kingdom. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

... Book of Common Worship, Presbyterian Church (USA)

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1420 West Moss Avenue

Peoria, Illinois 61606



THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

27 August 2023

Ten O'clock

GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

PREPARATION

Variations on *Thaxted*

Tom Trenney

Introduction, Theme, Minuet, Berceuse

"Thaxted" is a hymn tune by the English composer Gustav Holst, based on a stately theme from the Jupiter movement of his orchestral suite *The Planets*. Often paired with "O God, Beyond all Praising."

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Rev. Dr. Linda Philabaun

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: *The Lord be with you.*

All: **And also with you.**

One: *Lift up your hearts.*

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

One: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*THE HYMN 414

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought

Forest Green

1. As those of old their firstfruits brought
Of vineyard, flock and field
To God, the giver of all good,
The source of bounteous yield,
So we today our firstfruits bring,
The wealth of this good land:
Of farm and market, shop and home,
Of mind and heart and hand.

2. A world in need now summons us
To labor, love and give,
To make our life an offering
To God that all may live.
The church of Christ is calling us
To make the dream come true:
A world redeemed by Christ-like love,
All live in Christ made new.

3. With gratitude and humble trust We bring our best to you,
Not just to serve your cause but share Your love with neighbors too.
O God who gave yourself to us In Jesus Christ your Son,
Help us to give ourselves each day Until life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christerson, 1960
Music: English Folk Melody
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*praying together*)

Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we fail to fulfill your will. Though you have bound yourself to us, we will not bind ourselves to you. In Jesus Christ your serve us freely, but we refuse your love and withhold ourselves from others. We do not love you fully or love one another as you command. In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us. Lead us once again to be united with Christ who loves us and leads us in the way of righteousness. To him be the glory now and forever. Amen

***TIME OF SILENCE AND PERSONAL CONFESSION**

***KYRIE**

Tom Clark-Jones

Lord have mer - cy up - on us. Christ have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord have mer - cy up - on us.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***GLORIA PATRI**

Tom Clark-Jones

Glo - ry be to the Fa - - ther,
and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
As it was in the be - gin - ning, is
now, and ev - er shall be. world with - out
end. A - men. A - - - - men.

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*praying together*)

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as scripture is read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Exodus 1:8-2:10 Dennis Herridge, *liturgist*

⁸Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." ¹¹Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites. ¹⁴and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶"When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." ¹⁷But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" ¹⁹The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." ²⁰So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²²Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

¹Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. ⁷Then his

sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

The Word of the Lord ... Thanks be to God.

***THE PSALTER**
(*Hymnal Nr. 236*)

Psalm 124

Old 124th

1. Now Israel may say, and that in truth:
If that the Lord had not or right maintained,
If that the Lord had not with us remained
When cruel foes against us rose to strive,
We surely had been swallowed up alive.
2. Yea, when their wrath against us fiercely rose,
The swelling tide had o'er us spread its wave,
The raging stream had then become our grave,
The surging fold, in proudly swelling roll,
Most surely then had overwhelmed our soul.
3. Blest be the Lord, who made us not their prey;
As from the snare a bird escapeth free,
Their net is rent and so escaped are we:
Our only help is in God's holy name,
Who made the earth and all the heavenly frame.

Text: The Psalter, 1912
Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Romans 12:1-8

Dennis Herridge, *liturgist*

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

Rev. Dr. Linda Philabaun

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Word of the Lord ...

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Linda Philabaun

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 356

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton

1. Come, thou fount of every blessing
Tune my heart of sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love!

2. Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.

3. O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Et that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for thy courts above.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1758
Music: Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*affirming together*)

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

THE GIFT OF MUSIC

Prelude on Nettleton (*Come Thou Fount*)

Craig Phillips

SEALING THE WORD

INTERCESSIONS AND SUPPLICATIONS

... In your mercy ... Lord hear our prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER [*we pray together*]

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.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 427**

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

Blaenhafren

**1. Lord, whose love through humble service
Bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken,
Offered mercy's perfect deed,
We your servants, bring the worship
Not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to your purpose
Every gift that you impart.**

**2. Still your children wander homeless;
Still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom;
Still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, your deep compassion
Healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love your Spirit kindles
Still to save and make us whole.**

3. As we worship, grant us vision,
Till your love's revealing light,
In its height and depth and greatness,
Dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens
Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to tireless striving,
Your abundant life to share.

4. Called from worship to your service,
Forth in your dear name we go.
To the child, the youth, the aged,
Love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort,
Counsel, aid, and peace we give,
That your servants, Lord, in freedom
May your mercy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1961
Music: Welsh Melody

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Postlude on *Thaxted*

David Cherwein

Thaxted is a hymn tune by English composer, Gustav Holst, based on a theme from the 'Jupiter' movement of his orchestral suite, *The Planets*. It's text is often, "O God Beyond all Praising".

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Dr. Linda Philabaun, *Guest Preacher*
Dr. Polly Brecht, *Organist-Choirmaster*
Dennis Herridge, *Liturgist*
Frank Blain, *Video Producer*

Service music: Thomas Clark-Jones, © 2005, all rights reserved.

WE WELCOME THOSE VISITING WESTMINSTER TODAY and trust this service celebrating the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost will be a blessing. We invite you to coffee hour which follows in the Church Parlor. The Rev. Dr. Linda Philabaun is our Worship Leader and Preacher again this morning, as she has been through the month of August. Dr. Philabaun is a retired Minister of Word and Sacrament of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Please make Dr. Philabaun feel welcome here in this welcoming congregation!

Service leaflet preparation, tj.

OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS