

We Respond to the Word

Moment of Thanks

Offertory

Generous God, we are so blessed – with resources, with generous givers, and with skilled leaders to help us make wise and welcoming use of our funds. Thank you that we can give, and that we can trust those who handle our finances. Bless the givers and bless the use of these gifts. Amen

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

We Are Sent Out to the World

Closing Song

For Everyone Born (see overhead)

Benediction

Leader: And let all God's people say...

People: Alleluia! Amen!

Response

May You Run and Not Be Weary (see overhead)



First Presbyterian Church

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Pastor - Rev. Dr. Christina Berry

Ministers - All the People

July 24, 2022

We Gather

Welcome

First Reading and Meditation

"There are a lot of 'missing persons' in our world today whose situation of poverty, injustice, and suffering makes God weep. These missing persons are not strangers to God, for God already has reached out to care for them. Yet they are strangers in the world who need to know God cares through the witness of a church that practices a ministry of hospitality and justice on their behalf. Hospitality is the practice of God's welcome by reaching across difference to participate in God's actions bringing justice and healing to our world in crisis....The ministry of the church is to be partners with strangers, to welcome those whom Christ welcomed, and thus learn to be a community in which people are made one in Jesus Christ in spite of their different classes, religious backgrounds, genders, races, and ethnic groups. Our koinonia or partnership in Christ is a gift of our baptism and not a result of being of one class, race, or sexual orientation. It is a gift that transcends real differences through participation in the mission and ministry of the church on behalf of healing the brokenness of the world, beginning with ourselves."

-- Letty Russel

Call to Worship

Leader: Our Creator calls us to hospitality; to welcome others as God has welcomed us.

People: We welcome all, for there are angels among us.

Leader: The God of love calls us to give God glory, in the compassion we show to one another.

People: We love without judgment, of ourselves or of others, for we are loved.

Leader: We gather as one Body, seeking to walk in the way Jesus has set for us.

People: We gather as one Body, to worship the one who is Love and Welcome.

All: Let us worship God.

Opening Song

O For a World (Blue 386 v. 1, 4, 5)

Let Us Build a House (see overhead)

We Prepare our Hearts

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you welcome all, no matter who they are. Forgive us for the times we have allowed judgment to overcome justice. You made all people in your image. Forgive us for the times we have failed to see you in the poor, or homeless. You have said that all are precious in your sight. Forgive us when we have shown indifference, and when we have counted others as unworthy or undeserving of love. You call us to share life together with all humanity, as members of one family. Forgive us for when we have been unconcerned with suffering. In your loving embrace, O God, renew and restore us so that we may offer your justice, your love, and your welcome to all people, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: God is merciful and compassionate, very patient, full of faithful love, and ready to forgive. People of God, rejoice and give thanks:

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response

Glory to God (see overhead)

Sharing the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Response

Peace Song (see overhead)

We Receive the Word

Children's Time

Scripture Reading

Genesis 18:20-32

Sermon

The Sins of Sodom