

Sow Good News

"Faith comes by listening." (Romans 10:17)



INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN THE OLD STONE CHURCH OF INDEPENDENCE

RALLY DAY AND PROGRAM YEAR KICKOFF

Sunday, September 10, 2023



C.J. Briggs, Music Director
Julie Lehmann, Church Secretary

John Bair, Liturgist
Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

The first duty of love is to listen.

~ Paul Tillich

~ GATHERING ~

*Welcome to Independence Presbyterian Church!
We are glad you are worshipping with us this morning.*

Children's Sunday School will be offered after the "Litany of Sending"

*Ushers can direct you to bathrooms, changing tables, the nursery, and elsewhere,
and will pass around the friendship register for all to sign.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *(from Romans 10:17)*

We listen, we listen for the word of the Lord.
For faith comes by listening.

*GATHERING

LISTEN, GOD IS CALLING
Kenyan (NENO LAKE MUNGU)

GTG #456
Refrain x2

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Isaiah 52)*

For thus says the Lord our God,
my people shall know that it is I who speak:

How beautiful upon the hills are the feet of the messenger:

**who proclaims peace,
who spreads good news,
who preaches love,
who says: "Your God lives!"**

Listen! The sentries lift their voices:

Together we sing out for joy

Depart! Depart, go out from here,

all those who carry the light of God.

You shall not go out in haste,

for the Holy One will go before those who bring good news.

Come, let us worship God.



*HYMN

LISTEN, GOD IS CALLING
Kenyan; trans. Howard S. Olson

GTG #456
NENO LAKE MUNGU

CHILDREN OF GOD. THE TINY SEED: A PARABLE (Based on Matthew 13)

written by Katie Warner; illustrated by Meg Whalen

POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

It is a ritual here at IPC for our children to help pour the Baptismal waters, as a reminder before we offer our confession that God has claimed us and loves us.

LITANY OF SENDING

One: Let us send our kids with God's love.

All: **May God be with you there.**

Kids: May God be with you here.

At this time, children may go with the teachers to Sunday School. Their grown-ups are welcome to go with them or stay in the sanctuary.

Children are always welcome to remain in worship.



***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (based on Matthew 13)

O God, we have not tended the soil of our lives. We let it stay shallow and rocky by not listening to the experience of others. We let it be riddled with thorns by succumbing to our fears. Life-giving God, help us to tend our soil. Open us to being challenged, enable us to listen, so that your word will take root and bear good fruit in our lives and your world. Amen. [*Silent Confession*]

***RESPONSE**

LORD, HAVE MERCY
American folk melody

GTG #551
LAND OF REST

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (based on Romans 5)

God has forgiven us that we might live according to the Spirit.
The Spirit of God dwells within us. Thanks be to God!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** (Isaiah 52:7)

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

MINUTE FOR SOWING

John Bair

~ LISTENING TO THE WORD ~

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE READING FAITH COMES BY LISTENING ROMANS 10:8-17

¹Brothers and sisters, ⁸*The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart* (that is, the message of faith that we preach). ⁹Because if you confess with your mouth “Jesus is Lord” and in your heart you have faith that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰Trusting with the heart leads to righteousness, and confessing with the mouth leads to salvation. ¹¹The scripture says, *All who have faith in God won't be put to shame.* ¹²There is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord is Lord of all, who gives richly to all who call on the Lord. ¹³*All who call on the Lord's name will be saved.* ¹⁴So how can they call on someone they don't have faith in? And how can they have faith in someone they haven't heard of? And how can they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, *How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the good news.* ¹⁶But everyone hasn't obeyed the good news. As Isaiah says, *Lord, who has had faith in our message?* ¹⁷So, faith comes from listening, but it's listening by means of the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL LESSON PARABLE OF THE SOWER MATTHEW 13:1-9

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!”

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people.
For faith comes by listening.





~ *RESPONDING TO THE WORD* ~

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from Confession of Belhar)*

We believe...

that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ;

We believe...

that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells;

We believe...

that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

***INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

*Offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary,
and will be brought forward during the Doxology.*

***RESPONSE**

DOXOLOGY
by Thomas Ken

GTG #606
OLD HUNDREDTH

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

~ EUCHARIST ~

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

All of God's children are invited to the Lord's Table.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.



SANCTUS

Therefore, with all creation we sing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION

The gifts of God, for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

COME TO THE TABLE OF GRACE

GTG #507

by Barbara Hamm

TABLE OF GRACE

We will begin singing the hymn while the elders gather the elements.

When directed, you may come forward to receive communion.

If you prefer to remain seated, an elder will bring the elements to you.

We will continue singing through communion.

You may partake of the elements when you receive them.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

~ **GOING FORTH TO SOW** ~

***HYMN**

YOU SHALL GO OUT WITH JOY

GTG #80

by Steffi Geiser Rubin

THE TREES OF THE FIELD

***BENEDICTION**

How are they to proclaim unless they are sent:

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News!

POSTLUDE

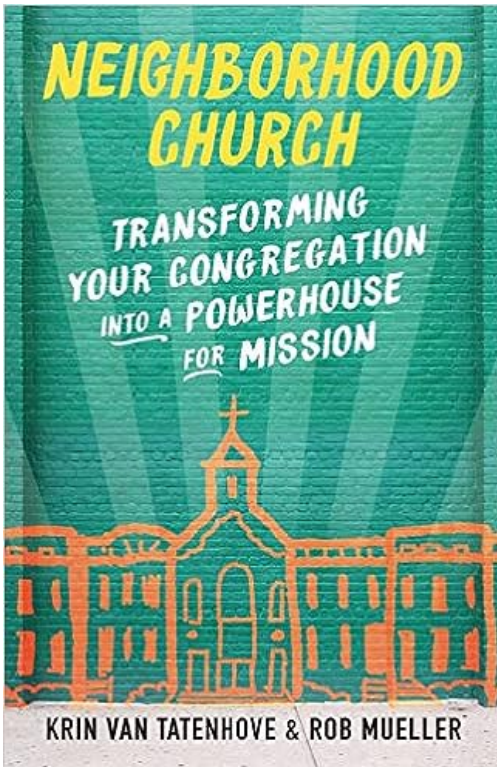
*Know that you are loved by God and go forth to
Sow the Good News of God's love and peace,*



Pieces of today's liturgy are from: *Book of Common Worship* (PCUSA);
Call to Worship, Lectionary Aids, Presbyterian Outlook, Teri Ott.

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<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58962>

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Neighborhood Church Book Study 4th Tuesday of the Month

**Starting October 24th
Two Meeting Times: 10AM and 7PM**

Books - \$15

How can we embody the values of love, grace, and justice? As faith communities, how can our collective embodiment of these values shine even brighter?

The answers to these questions must always unfold right here, right now, exactly where God has planted us. *Neighborhood Church* acts as a resource to inspire churches to become a vibrant and engaging community partner with the families and neighborhoods living around them. The need for transformation is acute.

Van Tatenhove and Mueller dare to have an audacious hope for local congregations not only as signs of

God's kingdom but as life-giving institutions that anchor their neighborhoods.

Drawing on their combined sixty years of parish experience, wisdom from Asset-Based Community Development, and compelling case stories, Van Tatenhove and Mueller do more than just call us to incarnational ministry. They give practical, essential tools that lead to communal conversion, develop the DNA of listening, spur fruitful partnerships, promote integrated space, and sustain long-term visions. They believe these tools will spark true revival and unleash the power of incarnational ministry.

Sign-up for the study is posted outside the church office.