

Sow Good News

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



INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN
THE OLD STONE CHURCH OF INDEPENDENCE

EVANGELISM SUNDAY

September 17, 2023 (Proper 19)



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

Paul Gronwall, Liturgist
Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

*The practice of spiritual discipline makes us more sensitive to the small, gentle voice of God.
Through a spiritual discipline we prevent the world from filling our lives to such an extent that
there is no place left to listen. ~ Henri Nouwen*

~ **GATHERING** ~

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

GTG #456

Kenyan (NENO LAKE MUNGU)

Verse 1

***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**

COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME

GTG #367

by Henry Alford

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

CHILDREN OF GOD

QUIET

by Tomie DePaola

POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

LITANY OF SENDING

All: May God be with you there.

Kids: May God be with you here.

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

Master Gardener, we walk among weeds and wheat, oftentimes unaware of the difference between good and evil. Help us discern your will and your way. Guide our feet as we walk and work in the garden of your world. Nurture us in your good soil. May our lives contribute to your kin-dom to come. May our toil support the growth of your harvest. 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

NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH

~ LISTENING TO THE WORD ~

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 13:18-23

(CEB)

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

EPISTLE READING

ROMANS 10:8-17

(CEB)

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

WORD

LISTEN TO THE WORD THAT GOD HAS SPOKEN

GTG #455

Anon. Canadian

LISTEN

SERMON

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**

***RESPONSE**

DOXOLOGY

GTG #606

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

~ **GOING FORTH** ~

***HYMN**

A SOWER CAME FROM ANCIENT HILLS
by Herman G. Stuempfle Jr.

GTG #171
SEACHRIST

***BENEDICTION**

How are we to proclaim unless we 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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