

Sow Good News

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



INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN
THE OLD STONE CHURCH OF INDEPENDENCE

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 24, 2023 (Proper 20)



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

Paula Trill, Liturgist
Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

*As for that which I have heard, may God make it to bear fruit in my heart,
and in the hearts of all those who have heard it with me.*

~ Queen Mâkêdâ of Ethiopia (from the *Kebra Nagast*)

~ GATHERING ~

The church bells call us to a state of worship.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Kebra Nagast & Romans 10:17)*

As for that which I have heard, may God make it to bear fruit in my heart.
For faith comes by listening.

***GATHERING** LISTEN, GOD IS CALLING GTG #456
Kenyan (NENO LAKE MUNGU) *Verse 1*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(based on Psalm 87)*

Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God. (Psalm 87:3)

On the holy mount stands the city founded by the Lord:
the city of God, the home of all people.

Open the gates, be the home to all the earth,
the place where enemies gather to sing praises
the place where hostile nations learn to dance together.

Rahab and Babylon, Philistia and Tyre, with Ethiopia, they say:
These people are of here, the city of God.

Establish the city, we pray,
the springs of life
where all the families of the earth are blessed
and claim the city of God as home.

Singers and dancers alike say:
Come, let us worship God!

***HYMN** PRAISE YE THE LORD GTG #633
by J. Jefferson Cleveland CLEVELAND

CHILDREN OF GOD.

POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

LITANY OF SENDING

All: May God be with you there. Kids: May God be with you here.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children. But division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in relationship, and be transformed through your steadfast love. Amen.

***RESPONSE**

LORD, HAVE MERCY
American folk melody

GTG #551
LAND OF REST

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

The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

~ LISTENING TO THE WORD ~

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

HEBREW BIBLE

1 KINGS 10

(NRSV)

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

ACTS 8:26-40

(NRSV)

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people.

For faith comes by listening.

WORD

CALLED AS PARTNERS IN CHRIST'S SERVICE
by Jane Parker Huber

GTG #761
BEECHER

MISSIONAL STORIES

SPECIAL GUEST SHARON KANDEL

Regional Liaison for the Horn of Africa and South Sudan

Presbyterian World Mission

~ **RESPONDING TO THE WORD** ~

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

We believe... that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;

We believe... that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged

We believe... that God calls the church to follow God in this; that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;

We believe... that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged.

***INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

***RESPONSE**

DOXOLOGY

GTG #606

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

~ **GOING FORTH** ~

***HYMN**

O GOD OF EVERY NATION

GTG #756

by William W. Reid

LLANGLOFFAN

***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. *Together We Pray*, J. Bradley Wigger

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