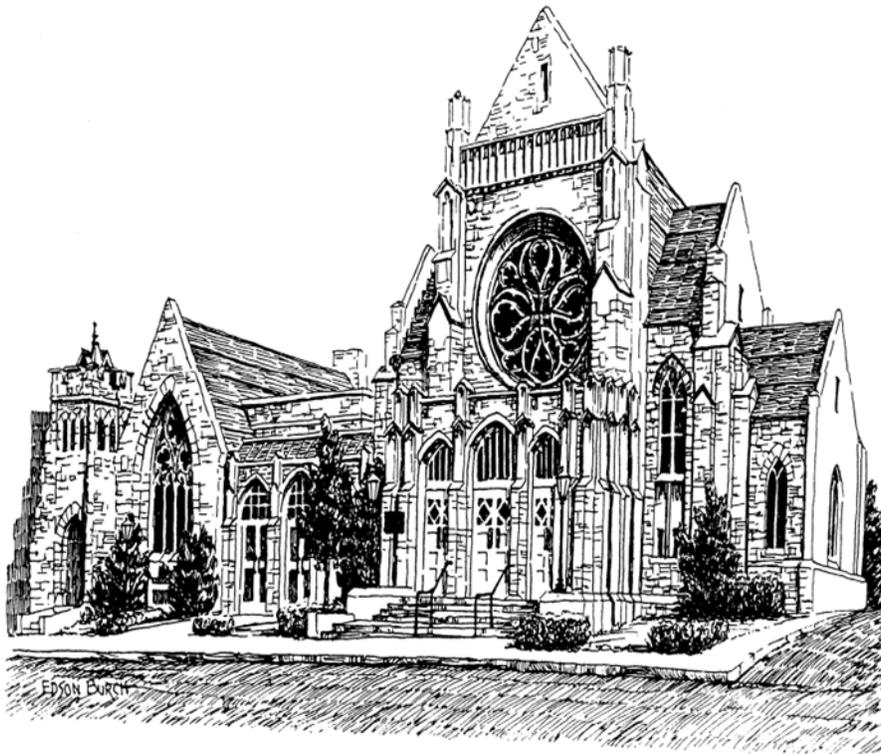


WEBSTER GROVES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Service for the Lord's Day
September 13, 2020
9:30 a.m.

OUR MISSION
We seek to live Christ's love,
welcome all people and joyfully serve God.



Service for the Lord's Day

✦ *When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.*

~GATHERING FOR GOD'S WORD~

PRELUDE

"Evensong"

H. Wilan

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE(**Pulpit**)

As the music begins, let us use this time for quiet reflection and prayer, so that we, individually and as a great crowd of witnesses, may prepare ourselves to reaffirm our faith as the people of God.

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP (**Lectern**)

Matt Putnam, Liturgist

People of God, bless the Lord,

bless God's holy name.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,

so great is God's steadfast love for us.

HYMN 619

"Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven"

LAUDA ANIMA

✦ CALL TO CONFESSION (**Font**)

As loving parents have compassion for their children,

God has compassion for us.

Confident in God's love, let us confess our sins.

✦ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God,

we confess that we have failed to live in harmony

with our sisters and brothers.

We have been self-righteous in our attitudes,

closed-minded in our beliefs,

and judgmental in our opinions.

We have shunned those whose ways we

do not understand, and we have despised those

who do not endorse our convictions.

Forgive our sins of discord and conceit,

**and heal our divisiveness and quarreling.
Help us to be charitable in our regard for others
that we may dwell in peace with Christ,
who is Lord of all. Amen.**

✦ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, the Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

✦PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
and also with you.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

"There's a Wilderness in God's Mercy"

IN BABILONE

~PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD~

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Lectern)

Matt Putnam, Liturgist

Lord, by the power of your Holy Spirit
open our understanding
that we may receive the Word of life. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Matthew 18:21-35

Pew Bible, pg. 20

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave re-

leased him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Romans 14:1-12

Pew Bible, pg. 163

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

SERMON(Pulpit)

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel III

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

~RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD~

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Julie Wood

OFFERING INVITATION (Font)

Let us give as God has so abundantly given to us.

OFFERTORY

“Prayer for Peace”

David Cherwein

*O God of love, O King of peace, make wars throughout the world to cease;
The wrath of nations now restrain. Give peace, O God, give peace again!
Remember, Lord, thy works of old, the wonders that thy people told;
Remember not our sin's dark stain. Give peace, O God, give peace again!
Whom shall we trust but thee, O Lord? Where rest but on thy faithful word?
None ever called on thee in vain. Give peace, O God, give peace again!*

~SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION~

INVITATION (Communion Table)

Blessed are you who hunger for justice,
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who thirst for righteousness,
for you will drink deeply of the cup of joy.

Blessed are you who yearn for reconciliation,
for you will find peace.

Blessed are you who are persecuted in the name of religion,
for yours is the commonwealth of heaven.

Blessed are we—for Christ calls us to his table,
where there is room for everyone, and plenty for all.

O taste and see that the Lord is good.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

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

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Leader: Holy God, creator of the universe,
you made the world to hum in harmony;
you listened and you called it good.
In time we broke off from singing the song
and went our own way,
but you called us back
and when the time was right
you came in flesh and blood
to live as one of us.
In Christ, dividing walls are broken down—
no Jew or Greek,
male and female,
slave or free.
You are there on every spectrum,
in every color,
at every table.

(Joys and Concerns here)

By your Spirit, make us one.

By your Spirit, make us whole.

By your Spirit, make this bread and wine
your body and blood,
that we may know communion with you
and with each other.

Take our hearts, our lives, our hands;
mold us, change us, and send us out,
that we may be your body in the world you so love ,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: 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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Because there is one loaf,
we, many as we are, are one body;
for it is one loaf of which we partake.
(The minister lifts and breaks the bread, saying:)
When we break the bread,
is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?
(The minister pours and lifts the cup, saying:)
When we give thanks over the cup,
is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Table)

Holy God, giver of wine and bread,

send us from your table in confidence
that we are your own children,
born of your Spirit, fed at your table,
filled with your grace, sent to speak your truth
and offer your love to the world in Christ's name. Amen.

HYMN 822

"When We Are Living"

SOMOS DEL SENOR

CHARGE (Pulpit)

Go in peace,
practice forgiveness,
live the gospel,
in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

BENEDICTION

The blessing of God be with you,
the love of Jesus fill you,
and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you,
now and forevermore.

POSTLUDE

"Exeunt Omnes"

R. Lloyd