

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla**  
**Worship Service for Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

*July 23, 2023*

**Pre-Service Music:** *Majesty* - Jack Hayford

**Welcome and Announcements**

The Mission and Outreach Committee will be participating in the CHRISTMAS IN JULY for GRACE. These will be used in the GRACE for Christmas gifts. Our church has been asked to provide toys for children from birth to 3 years. Little ones need stimulation and education toys as well as fun ones. There is a box in the back of the church for donation. Thank you in advance.

The Mission and Outreach Committee is also asking for donations of 24 pack Crayola crayons (yellow and green box) during the month of July. These crayons will be used for the Back to School Fair being held on August 2. The last day we will be collecting is July 30. We have been able to donate 500+ boxes in the past and hope to again this year. Thank you in advance.

We have been invited to attend a Southern Gospel concert by the Abundance Quartet at First Presbyterian Church of Mountain View on August 6. We will meet at the church at 2 pm to carpool down together. Contact Jonathan Kimball if you would like to attend or want more information.

**Prelude:** *I Worship You, Almighty God* - Sondra Corbett-Wood

**Welcoming Song #192:** *Shine Jesus, Shine* vs. 1

**Call to Worship**

We come. We wait. **We long. We hope.**

We suffer. We pray. **We rejoice. We sing.**

We know we are children of God. **We wait for Christ to set all things right.**

**Prayer of the Day**

**Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn #360:** *Christ is Coming!* vs. 1, 2, and 4 (please stand)

**Call to Confession**

There is goodness within us that grows like fresh wheat.

**There is also sin within us that chokes that wheat like weeds.**

Let us bring all of who we are to God, who can separate out what is good,

**so that we are not overcome with evil.**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Ever-present God, there is no place where you are not with us. You see us at our worst and at our best. There is much we would hide from you— the ways we harm your creation, the ways we mistreat others, the ways we turn away when we should turn toward. Even as you know us, forgive us. Guide our thoughts, our words, our actions, that you may delight in us as we delight in you. Amen.**

**Declaration of Pardon**

Beloved, hear the good news:

**God knows us and forgives us and leads us in the way of everlasting life.  
Thanks be to God!**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

**Glory to God #582:**

*(please stand)*

**Hymn of the Day #378:**     *We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom*

**Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

*Worship leader will lead the prayers.*     Hear us, O God.     **Your mercy is great.**

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

O God, you call your church to announce the gospel of reconciliation and truth both near and far. Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom and shares it, trusting your Spirit bearing witness among us.

Hear us, O God.     **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray:

**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**

**Hymn #455:**

*Listen to the Word that God Has Spoken*     sing twice     (seated)

**Prayer for Illumination:**

**Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Scriptures for the Day**

**Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 44:6-8

**Epistle Lesson:** Romans 8:12 – 25

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 13:24 – 30, 36 - 43

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:** *Let It Grow* Jonathan Kimball

**Affirmation of Faith:** The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968 (please stand)

**We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

**Dedication of Tithes and Offerings** (please stand)

**Offering #708:** *We Give Thee but Thine Own* vs. 1 and 2

**Prayer of Dedication:**

**God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Sending Hymn #839:** *Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!* (remain standing)

**Benediction:** (remain standing)

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed  
bless keep and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

**Postlude:** *Great Is The Lord* - Michael W. Smith & Deborah D. Smith

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Jonathan Kimball and Randy Glancy. Worship led by Cynthia Hobart and sermon provided by Jonathan Kimball.*

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