

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

July 30, 2023

Pre-Service Music:

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude:

Welcoming Song #403: *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty* vs. 1

Call to Worship

We seek the kin-dom of God: **where the smallest seeds turn into great plants.**
We seek the kin-dom of God: **as precious as pearls or treasure.**
We seek the kin-dom of God: **where joy and abundance reign.**

Prayer of the Day

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn #19: *God of Great and God of Small* (please stand)

Call to Confession

We love God, and yet . . . **We are Christ's disciples, and yet . . .**
We are guided by the Spirit, and yet . . . **there are many ways we do not live this reality.**
Let us call upon the Spirit to intercede for us in our time of confession.

Prayer of Confession

Spirit, intercede . . . **when we fall short of your glory, when we do not deserve your promises, when we do not act like those who have been called your family.**

Spirit, intercede . . . **when our words wound, when our silence speaks volumes, when our actions are a far cry from what you would have us do.**

Spirit, intercede . . . **break forth into our lives, forming us into the image of your Son, that we might never feel separate from you again. Amen.**

Declaration of Pardon

Beloved, hear the good news:

**God is for us. Not even our sins can separate us from the love of God.
Glory be to God for this grace and mercy!**

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 #435: *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

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.

Almighty God, we pray for the church and all servants of the gospel. Equip rostered and lay ministers to proclaim that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

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 #403: *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty vs. 3* (seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day

Old Testament Reading: 1 Kings 3:5 - 12

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:31 – 33, 44 - 52

Epistle Lesson: Romans 8:26 – 39

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Too Deep For Words

Rev. Bob Morrison

Affirmation of Faith: Prayer for Listening and Speaking – First Presbyterian, Rolla

In all the relationships of our church life, community life, and personal life may we follow the teachings of Jesus. May we endeavor to speak the truth in love and be guided by scripture in our thoughts, decisions, and actions. May we respect and listen deeply to one another, keep confidences, and avoid gossip and triangulation. May we pray for and with one another, building each other up, realizing every soul is precious to God. Amen.

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

(please stand)

Offering #712:

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought

vs. 1

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 #712: *As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought* vs. 2 & 3 (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:

Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Mary Kwantes and JoAnne Walters. Worship led by Melba Read and sermon provided by Rev. Bob Morrison.

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