

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sept. 10, 2023

Pre-Service Music:

Welcome and Announcements

- Peace & Global Witness Offering collected through October 1.
- We are collecting supplies for two buckets for disaster relief.
- New security system is now active!

Prelude:

Welcoming Song #657: *Sing to God with Joy and Gladness* vs. 1

Call to Worship

Where two or three are gathered together,

God is in their midst.

We gather to proclaim the promises, to retell the stories,

to remember who we are as people of God.

Let us worship! As we pray together:

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn #657: *Sing to God with Joy and Gladness* vs. 2, 3, 4 (please stand)

Call to Confession

Let us lay aside the works of evil and put on the armor of goodness.

Let us live honorably, putting on the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom we confess now.

Prayer of Confession

Beautiful Savior, you have made your law clear: Love. Love one another. Owe one another nothing but love. Do no wrong to a neighbor. But we have not mastered what it is to love. We have fallen short, causing harm to others through careless action and thoughtless lack of action. Forgive us. Teach us

how to love more fully, more perfectly, as generously as you love, following your law and fulfilling your will.

Declaration of Pardon

Christ does not judge us harshly, but forgives all our sin and leads us into new life.

We will not take this forgiveness for granted, but will let it transform how we live and love.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Passing the Peace of Christ

Glory to God #583: *(please stand)*

Hymn of the Day #61: *Your Law, O Lord, Is Perfect*

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.

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

Hold us accountable, O God. Show your church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of intentional compassion and listening. Help us extend hands of reconciliation and care, especially in relationships with other Christians and people of other faiths.

Merciful God. **Receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers our hearts, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ 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 #316: *Where Charity and Love Prevail vs. 1, 3, 4 (seated)*

Prayer for Illumination:

Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the Scriptures are read and the Word is proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let all other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today — the voice of truth and grace. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 33:7 - 11

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18:15 - 20

Epistle Lesson: Romans 13:8 – 14

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Love and Diapers* Rev. John Nipper

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 & 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 #612: *We Praise You, O God* (standing)

Benediction: (remain standing)

With you Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
Be with us through this week as we share the good news
with all that we meet.

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

Postlude:

Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Mary Kwantes and Lorie Francis. Worship led by Luke Gutches and sermon provided by Rev. John Nipper.

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