

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

Sept. 24, 2023

Pre-Service Music: *Love* - Ruth Elaine Schram

Welcome and Announcements

- Congregational Picnic, September 30 @ 5:00 pm, Lions Club Pavilion #1
- First Friday Out, October 6 @ 5:30 pm, DiTrapani's

Prelude: *Sweet Hour of Prayer* - Barbara J. Heastings

Introit #270: *O Lord, You Are My God and King*

Responsive Call to Worship and Prayer of the Day

We will sing to God and bless God's name forever and ever.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!

We will declare God's mighty acts and celebrate God's abundant goodness.

Let us worship, singing of God's righteousness.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgement, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Opening Hymn #408: *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit* (stand)

Call to Confession

We try to live our lives in a manner worthy of Christ.

We try to stand firm in God's spirit, but our human self-interest gets the better of us.

In humility and faith, let us confess.

Prayer of Confession

God of generosity, we find ourselves bitter when faced with your abundant grace. We believe ourselves more deserving than others. We nurse our anger and resentment at those you forgive, instead of rejoicing in the abundant love you show. Forgive us when we wish your grace was scarce. Forgive the double standards we hold. Help us to know that we are all in

need of your grace, and help us rejoice as we all gratefully receive your mercy.

Declaration of Pardon

The grace of God is boundless, poured out freely for all of us.

We will receive this gift of forgiveness, and trust God to transform our lives!

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Passing the Peace of Christ

Gloria #581: *Glory Be to the Father* (*please stand*)

Anthem: *Lauda Anima* Benjamin Harlan

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.

God who is gracious and merciful, teach your church to invite and welcome all. Lead us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge your church to choose equity and compassion over judgement.

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 #509: *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly* (seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

Since we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth, make us hunger for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 16:2 - 15

Epistle Lesson: Philippians 1:21 – 30

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 20:1 - 16

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon:

Life Is Not Fair

Rev. Bob Morrison

Affirmation of Faith: Selected texts from 1 Timothy, and 2 Timothy (please stand)

**Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of our religion:
Christ Jesus was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit,
seen by angels, preached among the nations,
believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory. 1 Tim. 3:16**

**The saying is sure: If we have died with Christ,
we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself. 2 Tim. 2:11-13**

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings (stand)

Offering #709: *God, We Honor You* sung in canon

Prayer of Dedication:

God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Sending Hymn #79: *Light Dawns on a Weary World* (stand)

Benediction: (remain standing)

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us, filling us with your love. Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we leave this place.

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

Postlude: *The Love of God* - Marty Parks

Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Chancel Choir and Lorie Francis. Worship led by Britt Whitaker and sermon provided by Rev. Bob Morrison.

Portions of the service reprinted by permission of Presbyterian Press from Call to Worship®. Copyright 2022, and Sundays and Seasons 2023, Augsburg Fortress Press, Copyright 2022.