

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla**  
**Worship Service for Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost**

*Oct. 22, 2023*

**Pre-Service Music:** *Psalm of Stillness* -Tracey Craig McKibben

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude:** *Beside Still Waters* - Nathan Fort

**Introit #371:** *New Songs of Celebration Render* vs. 1 Chancel Choir

**Responsive Call to Worship and Prayer of the Day**

God's glory is too much to comprehend,

**but we see God's face among us when we come together as the church.**

Let us witness to God's glory together!

**Prayer of the Day**

**Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

**Opening Hymn #12:** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* (stand)

**Call to Confession**

God has chosen us,

**but we frequently fail to choose God's will for our lives.**

Let us go before God,

**seeking forgiveness and peace.**

**Prayer of Confession**

**God of justice and truth, you ask us to give to you the things that are yours. If we are honest, we know we hold so much back. We have promised you our obedience, but we often fulfill our own desires first. We have promised you our worship, but we give our attention to idols instead. We have promised to do your work in the world, but we put it last on the list of priorities. Have mercy on us and forgive us. Increase our generosity that we might give freely, grateful for all of the gifts you have given us. Amen.**

## **Declaration of Pardon**

The good news remains true:

**God has chosen us, forgives us, and walks beside us,  
helping us become imitators of Christ.  
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Alleluia!**

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:**      *Be Thou My Vision*      arr. Philip Stopford

**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.*

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love.

God of grace.      **Hear our prayer.**

\*\*\*

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through 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 #438:**      *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*      (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**

**Epistle Lesson:** 1 Thessalonians 1:1 – 10

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 22:15 - 22

**Old Testament Reading:** Exodus 33:12-32

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:** “*God in the Rear-view Mirror*” Mary Kwantes

**Affirmation of Faith:** Apostles Creed (please stand)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of  
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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

**Offering #709:** *God, We Honor You*

**Prayer of Dedication:**

**God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good 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 #643:** *Now Thank We All Our God* (stand)

**Benediction:**

(remain standing)

The God of glory, Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

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

**Postlude:** *When in Our Music God Is Glorified* - Lloyd Larson

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Chancel Choir and Lorie Francis. Worship led by Cheryl Koederitz and sermon provided by Mary Kwantes.*

*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.*