

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

Sept. 13, 2026

**Pre-Service Music:**    *Moments in Prayer*    Anthony Giamanco

**Welcome and Announcements:**

**Prelude:**                *Resting*                                J.B. Taylor

**Introit #619:**    *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*    vs 1

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

We bow with the rolling rocks.

**God is our strength and our salvation.**

We sing with the roaring rivers.

**God is our justice and our joy.**

We will never stop telling God's story.

**God is the hope of our ancestors.**

With all that we have and all that we are, we say:

**God is so good!**

**Prayer of the Day**

**Spirit of mercy, we come to your fountain of forgiveness to begin again. You offer a fresh drink, a new life. Though we are often critical of others and of ourselves, help us to accept that we are accepted. Meet us here in ways that we can understand, that we may be filled with the life only you can offer. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn:**    *God Who Built This Wondrous Planet (stand)*  
All sing verses 1 and 4. Choir only on verses 2 and 3

**Call to Confession:**

We are not here to pass judgment on each other:

**all of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.**

Therefore, let us go before God as we offer our confession.

**Prayers of Confession**

*Moment for silent reflection and Confession followed by joint Prayer of Confession.*

**God our Judge, we admit we have double standards. We seek forgiveness for ourselves, but fail to forgive others. We seek relief for ourselves, but fail to seek relief for others. We seek leniency for ourselves, but fail to show that mercy to others. Forgive us, mighty God, and help us to forgive, showing others the same grace and mercy that you have generously shown to us. Amen.**

**Declaration of Forgiveness**

People of God, hear and believe: God does not deal with us according to our sins, but according to God's own steadfast love for us.

**As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our sins from us. Thanks be to God!**

The peace of Christ be with you.    **And also with you.**

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

**Gloria #581:**            *Glory Be to the Father*

**Anthem:**        *Behold I Make All Things New*  
                    Combined Choirs

Allen Pote

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

*Pause for sharing:*

If you would like to offer an individual petition of prayer to the congregation, simply speak your petition with a strong voice, concluding with the phrase “Hear Us O God”. The congregation will respond with **Your mercy is great.** After time has been allowed for all to share their prayers, we will move into the prepared Prayers of the People, using the same prompt and congregational response.

**Petitions from the People:**

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

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

**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 #754:**        *Help Us Accept Each Other*    vs. 1 & 2    (seated)

**Prayer for Illumination:**

**Faithful God, how blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Sanctify us by your Word and Spirit so that we may glorify you in the company of the faithful; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Scriptures for the Day:**

**Old Testament Lesson:** Exodus 14:19-31.

**Second Lesson:** Romans 14:1 - 12

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 18: 21 - 35.

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved. Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. **Thanks be to God.** Deuteronomy 6:6

**Sermon:** *At the Water's Edge* Susan Murray

To the Lord our God, Alpha and Omega, be all glory and honor forever.  
**Amen.** Revelation 21:6

**Affirmation of Faith** Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.32-33

**The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.**

**Dedication of Tithes and Offerings:** (please be seated)

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

**Prayer of Dedication:**

**Merciful and gracious God, you abound in steadfast love and faithfulness. With gratitude, we bring our gifts to you. Bless these gifts and bless our lives that together we may share your mercy and grace for the world you dearly love. Amen.**

**Sending Hymn #829:**    *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*    (stand)

**Charge and Benediction:**    (remain standing)

The blessing of the one God—  
Spirit, Son, and Father—  
be with you now and always. **Alleluia!**  
*Ephesians 4:4–6*

Lead a life worthy of your calling,  
giving glory to God in all things. **Amen.**  
*Ephesians 4:1*

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

**Postlude:**    *Hyfrydol*    Jonathan P. Rodgers

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