



SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD • MATTHEW 6:33

IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 1, 2023

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

ANNETTE LAPLACA

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP: *Seek Ye First* (Congregation sings)

Howard Whitaker

Seek ye first the king-dom of God, and His right-eous-ness a-lone.

For His king-dom is not in words, but in the pow'r of the Spir-it.

in the pow'r of the Spir-it.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come, let us worship the Lord.

All: Together we will praise our Creator, who does all things well.

Pastor: His name is Mighty God; his works are a marvel to us.

All: Therefore let us recount his deeds with great joy. Praise the Lord.

* INVOCATION

** Congregation stands.*

* OPENING SONG: *God Is Here*

1. God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer praise and prayer,
 2. Here are sym-bols to re - mind us of our life - long need of grace;
 3. Here our chil-dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's flock and fold;
 4. Lord of all, of Church and king - dom, in an age of change and doubt

may we find in full - er mea - sure what it is in Christ we share.
 here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit; here the cross has cen - tral place.
 here as bread and wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us, as of old.
 keep us faith - ful to the Gos - pel; help us work your pur - pose out.

Here, as in the world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 Here is hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 Here, in this day's cel - e - bra - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, b. 1903
 MUSIC: Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991

ABBOT'S LEIGH
 8.7.8.7.D.

† This song explains and celebrates what public worship is about. Stanza 3 is particularly appropriate for use when the sacraments are celebrated.

Compare your worship service with the text of the song. It may point out elements in your service that are missing or inadequate.

Words © 1979 by Hope Publishing Co. Music © 1942, renewal 1970 by Hope Publishing Co. All Rights Reserved.

Used by permission, CCLI #294262

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION

All: **When we come into the holy presence of God,
our own humanity is laid bare. When we stand
in the living presence of truth, our own falsehood
is revealed.**

Leader: People of God, let us acknowledge who we are and ask
our ever-present God to forgive us.

Adapted from The Worship Sourcebook

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from 1 John 1:8-9)*

Leader: Brothers and sisters, it is true that “if we claim to be without sin we deceive
ourselves and the truth is not in us.” But it is equally true, amazingly true, that
“if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and
purify us from all unrighteousness.”

* SONG OF ACCLAMATION: *Holy, Holy, Holy* (Please stand)

Franz Schubert
(Communion book, p. 20)

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

* APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried;
He descended into hell,
the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of
God the Father Almighty;
from there He shall 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.**

** universal*

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

(Please share God's peace with those around you.)

WE BRING OUR PRAISES, PRAYERS AND GIFTS

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY: *The Lord Is My Light*

Frances Allitson
LAUREN MATHUES

The Lord is my light, my light and my salvation,
Whom, then, shall I fear? Whom, then, shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life,
Of whom then shall I be afraid?

Though an host of men were laid against me,
Yet shall not my heart be afraid;
And though there rose up war against me.
Yet will I put my trust in Him.

For, in the time of trouble,
He shall hide me in His tabernacle,
Yea, in the secret places of His dwelling shall He hide me,
And set me up upon a rock of stone.

DIACONAL PRAYER

AMY TREIER

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Children return to their seats.)



1.O lift your eyes to Hea-ven, see The
 2.Now see the King who wears a crown, One
 3.Now see the Sav-ior lift-ed up, The



Ho-ly One e-ter-nal; Be-hold the Lord of Ma-je-s-ty Ex-
 made of shame and splin-ters; The sac-ri-fice for ru-ined man, The
 Lamb who reigns in splen-dor; The hope of ev-ery tribe and tongue His



al-ted in His tem-ple. As sym-pho-nites of an-gels praise Now
 sub-sti-tute for sin-ners. As Earth is stained with roy-al blood And
 king-dom is for-e-ver. Bring praise and ho-nor to His courts, Bring



strain to sound His glo-ry; Come wor-ship, fall be-fore His grace The
 quakes with love and fu-ry; He breathes His last and bows His head The
 wis-dom, po-wer, bless-ing; For end-less a-ges we'll a-dore The



King in all His beau-ty. How wor-thy, How
 King in all His beau-ty.
 King in all His beau-ty.



wor-thy, How wor-thy: The King in all His beau-ty.

WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

(Please remain standing for the reading of God's Word.)

READERS: JOHN AND JOYCE ECONOMIDES

* OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Exodus 12:21-29*

²¹ Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. ²² Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. ²³ When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

²⁴ "Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. ²⁵ When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. ²⁶ And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' ²⁷ then tell them, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.'" Then the people bowed down and worshiped. ²⁸ The Israelites did just what the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron.

²⁹ At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. NIV

* NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: *Luke 14:16-24*

¹⁶ Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. ¹⁷ At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

¹⁸ "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'

¹⁹ "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'

²⁰ "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

²¹ "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'

²² “‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’

²³ “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. ²⁴ I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’” NIV

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATION: *Who’s Coming to the Party? Entrance into the Kingdom*

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Please **approach the tables from the center aisles**, and we ask that you **return to your seats on the outside aisles.**

*If you would rather not go to the front, please feel free to remain seated.
Tell an usher if you would like to be served in your seat.*

*If you would like to be seated at the lower tables,
just take a seat in the front row while you wait for openings at those tables.*

Please feel free to partake of the elements as you feel led.

*If you prefer to be served by an elder who is wearing a face mask and gloves
please indicate that to the usher at the front of the sanctuary.*

*During Communion **Anna Gissing and Michael Dietrich** will be available
on the stair landings at the back of the sanctuary if you would like prayer.*

(Times of singing and silence.)

(Communion music is found in the Communion song book, unless otherwise noted.)

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Behold the Lamb | page 6 |
| Humbly I Adore Thee | page 22 |
| God to Enfold You | page 18 |
| Come with Us | page 8-9 |

WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

* CLOSING HYMN: *Amazing Grace*

HYMN 460

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I’m found, was blind but now I see.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

Scots' Form of Communion

The early Scottish Presbyterians felt strongly that their manner of celebrating the Lord's Supper should clearly symbolize the truth that the Risen Christ is host to his redeemed people at this covenant meal. Samuel Rutherford wrote that "they should sit, as banqueters, at one table with our King, and eat and drink." Abraham Kuyper expressed his opinion that the Lord's Supper should be eaten from a table, saying, "Jesus spreads a feast for his friends and as a King invites his people to his table."

For several years we have used this form largely for the same reasons expressed by our Presbyterian predecessors and also have discovered reasons in our own experience to value this observance of the Sacrament. The form demands a little more from us than the tradition of being served at our places in the congregation. As we overcome our nervousness about going forward we find that the very act impresses upon us the reality of our personal response to our Lord's invitation to receive his grace. Sitting with others at his table, singing and watching others go forward impresses upon us the reality of our fellowship and the joy of seeing others meet our Lord in his love.

Notice to Families: In accord with our practice of the Lord's Supper, children who have not yet professed their faith in Christ to the elders are asked to refrain from partaking in the communion. We desire that such children look forward gladly to the day when they take their first communion as a significant step in their spiritual growth. In the meantime, we want to provide ways they may grow to understand the meaning of the sacrament and also feel that though young, they are significant persons in the covenant family of God. So we invite those children to come forward to the Table and be seated with their parents. The elder who serves the elements to the parents will briefly offer prayer for the child. So that the elders may know which children to pray for in this way, we suggest that the children not taking communion fold their hands on the Table. We hope this custom will encourage parents as they help their children grow in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord" and prepare for the time when they are ready to profess Christ and take communion.

TODAY

Thanks to our musicians: Mary Hopper, Lauren Mathues, Beth Bauer, Seth Ehorn, Graham Haydon, Andrew Howe, Daniel Dietlin

If you would like someone to pray with you after the service, Sarah Holman will be available near the platform.

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Food Pantry open

Mothering Together

Youth Group (Game Night)

THIS WEEK

Tuesday 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. **Women's Bible Study** (*childcare*)

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Food Pantry open**

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. **Mothering Together** (*childcare*)

Prayers during Communion

Prayer to begin a new life in Christ

Dear God, I recognize Jesus came to earth to die on the cross for the sins of your people. I want to recognize now that he came to earth to die for *my* sins. I confess that I am a sinner in need of your grace and the saving blood of Christ. Please forgive me of my sins through the perfect sacrifice of your Son who died in my place. Jesus, come into my heart and change me from the inside out. Help me to truly repent from my previous way of living without you, and help me to surrender to your rule over my life as my Savior and Lord. Thank you for your Spirit that reveals to me the new life that I have in Christ and empowers me to walk in obedience to your truth and will for me. Amen.

Prayer for those struggling with sin

Merciful God, I am thankful that as your child I am not defined by my sin. Help me to walk in obedience to you in all areas of my life. Forgive me for the particular area(s) where I still succumb to temptation and disobey you. Help me to remember that in every area where I am tempted, your word promises that you will provide a way out of those temptations. Fill me with your Spirit, which working in me can do what I cannot do on my own. Help me to walk in obedience to your commands and also delight in them and your guiding words of truth. Please give me the courage to reach out to others in the body of Christ for strength and support when I am especially vulnerable. Amen.

Prayer for those wrestling with doubts and fears

Gracious God, even as your child I wrestle with the fact that your will for me is perfect and that you will supply all of my needs. Help me to set my mind on the truths of your word, and guard my heart when the enemy clouds my mind and heart with fear and doubt. Help me to rest in the peace and security of being your child, and by your Spirit testify with my spirit that I am yours when feelings tell me otherwise. Remind me of your love and delight in me as your child. Amen.

Prayer for those seeking freedom from their past

Almighty God, you have the power to set us free from the sins and entanglements of our past. Release me from the shackles of my past that I carry that you have released me from. Forgive me for holding my past against me in the ways that you do not, and enable me to grasp what it is for you to see me in the perfect righteousness of your Son, both now and forever. May your Spirit, the Spirit of liberty, liberate me from any thought or feeling that belies the fact that I am completely forgiven, or free to live the new life in Christ I have as your new creation. Amen.

