

Date: October 22, 2023
Season of the Holy Spirit

Prayer of Preparation

Gracious God, help me to be steadfast in my relationships and faithful to the duties those relationships entail, even when this may be difficult.

Gathering in the Presence of God

**Please stand as able, in body or in spirit*

Gathering Music *Open My Eyes That I May See* Clara Scott

Welcome

*** Call to Worship** (responsively) Liturgist

Though there are rulers, presidents, kings, queens, God is the Lord of all life.

In God we live and move and have our being.

God requires our faithfulness and our service.

We reach out to others with the same kind of love with which God has touched our lives.

Come, let us worship the Lord who is always with us.

Let us praise God who walks daily by our side. Amen.

***Hymn** *Take My Life* GTG 697

Confessing Our Separation from God (unison) Liturgist

Sovereign God, we live in a complicated world, with many people and powers demanding our allegiance. We want to live with stability and ease, doing what we should and avoiding conflicts. And we long to be faithful to

the way taught by Jesus — A way that sometimes puts us in conflict with worldly powers; A way that has been known to lead people to do things they “shouldn’t;” A way that threatens to transform ease into difficulty; A way that promises life abundant and eternal, but not stability. Guide us and empower us by your Spirit as we seek to give to you all that is truly yours. Forgive us when we allow ourselves to be easily pulled this way and that way by those who promise instant healing for all the world’s woes. Help us know that you are our Lord and you have provided much for us. Help us to truly place our trust in you and to work in ministries that bring peace and justice. This prayer we offer in Jesus’ name. Amen.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Jesus, Draw Me Close

Rick Founds

Jesus, draw me close; Closer, Lord, to You.
Let the world around me fade away.
Jesus, draw me close;
Closer, Lord, to You.
For I desire to worship and obey.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

We Hear God’s Word

Prayer of Illumination

Liturgist

Anthem

The Prayer

Foster/Sager

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 22:15-22

Liturgist

Source: The New Revised Standard Version

Reflection

Mixed Loyalties

We Respond to God's Word

***Affirmation of Faith** *I Believe in Jesus* Marc Nelson

Joys and Hopes of the People of God

Offertory *The Right Hand of God (vs 1,2 & 4)* GTG 332
The Act of Gratitude

***Doxology: An Expression of Faith to God** GTG 606

Tune: Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

***Prayer of Thanksgiving** (unison) Liturgist

Holy God, source of every good gift: the tithes and offerings we bring to you are simply a token of our desire to walk more closely beside you. We give, knowing that "rendering unto you what is yours" would mean leaving everything at your altar – all we have and all we are. We are not there yet, but with your help, we are on the road to getting there. Bless what we give; may it speak words of compassion, mercy, and love as it empowers your mission and ministry. We pray this in the powerful name of Jesus, whose light we seek to follow. Amen.

We Follow God's Word into the World

***Hymn** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* GTG 716

Benediction

Postlude *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* Oliver Holden

Next Week's Liturgist: Lois Gillespie

WORSHIP TEAM

Rev. Eddie Jusino

Liturgist: Marylea Franz

Ushers: Elsie and Harry Marshall

Music: David Libby

Soloist: Tina Marie Casamento

The Westminster Choir

A/V Tech: Melissa Schrock and Blue Jade

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

OCTOBER 22-29 - Please send the church the names of your dearly departed family and friends who died within the last year. We will remember them on Sunday, November 5 and read their names as well as ring the chimes in honor of All Saints Day.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28 @ 11am– Hoodie and Magic Gloves gift presentation and celebration at Springboard Pallet Village in Georgetown. Several members of the partnering Groups: Coolspring PC, Beebe Healthcare Lab & Pharmacy and the Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO) will be in attendance. If you are interested in joining us, please RSVP to Deb Norton (585-301-8060 or deb.norton@frontier.net)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 – NOVEMBER 8 @ 10am - Adult Ed Bible Study returns with Alan Keohane's "Picturing Scripture", an engaging online Bible Study.

Oct. 4, 11, 18 & 25 – Paul's Early Letters (Acts 13v1 – 28-31)

Nov. 1 & 8 – Paul's 2nd Mission Letters (Thessalonians and Galatians)

Please join us for these interesting and thought-provoking sessions via Zoom. The link is accessible on the Back of the Bulletin email and on WPC's website.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 @ 10am – SUNDAY SERVICE with Fellowship. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.

NOVEMBER 29 – DECEMBER 27 @ 10-11:30am – ADVENT BOOK STUDY

Pastor Eddie will lead the study group using Advent in Plain Sight, a Devotion through Ten Objects by Jill J. Duffield. The book is \$10 and is available in the church narthex (leave \$10 with your name in the envelope) or you may purchase it at Amazon.

Prayers of the People October 22, 2023

With hearts united in prayer and hope, let us come before God and one another with our Hopes and Sorrows.

Our sister in Christ, **Bonnie Ekas**, who pours out her love and compassion for others through the prayer shawl ministry, needs our prayers. Bonnie fell down the stairs at church about 10 days ago. Initially, she thought she was not injured, save a bruise on her leg near the ankle. However, that bruise did not resolve, but got worse. She had surgery and is now recovering nicely. We send our love and prayers for her continuing recovery, along with gratitude to our Merciful Lord for her access to competent and timely medical treatment. May she be comforted by the esteem and affection of her WPC family.

Surgery and Post-Surgery:

Mable Granke

Don Smith

John Witt

Lesley Yingling (Adele Trout's daughter)

Illness:

Rob Book (Linda Book's son)

Sebastian (Terry Eros' step-grandson)

Grieving/Mourning:

The Moore Family – loss of Dee Moore

Sid Simon – loss of his beloved pet, Violet Moon

Lois Ford and Karen Palermo– Lois' auntie, Leah McKenzie