

October 16, 2005

Gathering around God's Word

WELCOME AND SERVICE OF FRIENDSHIP: Russell Mase
PRELUDE: "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" arr. Mary Kay Parrish
(Exaltation Ringers)

CALL TO WORSHIP

I will extol thee, my God and King, and bless thy name for ever and ever,

Every day I will bless thee, and praise thy name for ever and ever.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

*HYMN: "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" No. 96

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, we search our hearts and ask your forgiveness, acknowledging that we have often been oblivious to your presence, and repeatedly have ignored your call to responsibility. We have broken your commandments and failed to share your love with others. Speak to us from beyond the clouds of our transgressions and call us again to a life of discipleship and service. Forgive us, we pray, not because we deserve your pardon but because without it we are lost and alone; in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

There is good news to proclaim! God so loved the world that he sent his only Son into the world, not to condemn the world but to save it. Trust the good news to be true!

We trust God's word, and accept God's forgiveness.

Go in peace, you faith has made you right with God once more. Amen.

*RESPONSE: "Spirit of the Living God" No. 492

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Proclaiming God's Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 25:31-46 (pew Bible page)
(8:30 a.m.) Bob Campbell (11:00 a.m.) Jackie Justice

ANTHEM: (8:30 a.m.) "Bless This Gift" Stan Pethel
(Alan Sledge)

(11:00 a.m.) "Such Good Things" K. Lee Scott
(Chancel Choir)

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things...as surpass our understanding; pour into our hearts such love for you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises...which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen, Amen.

SERMON: "Forgetful Generosity" Russell Mase

Responding to God's Word

*HYMN: "O Christians, Haste" No. 565

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostle's 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 Ghost, 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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

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

*GLORIA PATRI: "Glory Be to the Father" No. 734

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DEDICATION OF 2006 COMMITMENTS AND TODAY'S OFFERINGS

*Hymn: "Honor the Lord" Insert

*Presentation of Commitments and Offerings

*DOXOLOGY: "Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow" No. 34

*Prayer

Gracious God, we offer our lives to You in gratitude and praise.

Use us and our gifts and commitments in ways we never dreamed possible.

Help us to serve as Your partners in acts of justice, mercy and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Response: "Honor the Lord" Insert

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: "Lord You Are More Precious Than Silver" Lynn DeShazo

Recordings of the 11:00 a.m. service are available at the sound console at the back of the sanctuary.

Visitors: Welcome to First Presbyterian on this Lord's Day. If you need a church home, we invite you to unite with our congregation. Please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad.

The song, "Honor the Lord", was written and composed by our Director of Music, Alan Sledge, especially for the 2005 Stewardship Campaign.

The Congregational Meeting will reconvene on October 30 at 12:00 noon for the purpose of electing church officers.

Pledge cards and stewardship packets are available at the rear of the sanctuary. Ask an usher to help you if you need either.

Lost and Found: There is a "Lost and Found" table in the fellowship hall. Please check for lost items such as coats, dishes, umbrellas, etc. Unclaimed items will be donated after Friday, October 20.

The Hard Hats work day scheduled for Saturday October 22nd has been canceled so as not to conflict with the Pancake Breakfast scheduled for that morning. The Hard Hats will next get together on Saturday November 19th beginning at 10 a.m.

Saints Alive Luncheon: The monthly Saints Alive luncheon (\$3) will be held this Tuesday, October 18, at 12:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Following lunch and devotions, the program will be presented by Ellie and Gordon Den Bleyker, and will feature a video presentation, "River Romance," a riverboat trip through Germany and Belgium. Come and bring a friend!

Katrina relief reminder: If you wish to make a donation to the Presbytery sponsored Hurricane Relief Fund, please remember that we will be accepting those offerings only until the end of October.

Newsletter deadline is Thursday, October 20 before 12:00 noon.

When babies are baptized in our church, they are given several mementos of the occasion. One of them is a counted cross stitch giving the baby's name and date of baptism. We are blessed with many babies in our church and we could use some additional volunteers who like to cross stitch. Please call the church office if you feel that this is something you feel called to do.

The Week Ahead

- Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - Early Worship Celebration
 9:45 a.m. - Church School
 11:00 a.m. - Worship Celebration
 3:00 p.m. - Handmaidens of the Lord at the home of Ginny Swedenberg
 5:13 p.m. - PYF
 7:30 p.m. - Board of Deacons
- Monday: 7:00 p.m. - Boy Scout Troop 166
 7:00 p.m. - Purpose Driven Life Bible Study at the home of Liz Price
 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study at the home of Fred & Jean Coates
- Tuesday: 12:30 p.m. - Saints Alive
 7:00 p.m. - PYF Supper Club at Zaxby's
 6:15 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers
- Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner
 4:00 p.m. - Logos/MSM - *Backwards Night*
 5:00 p.m. - Kairos
 5:30 p.m. - High School Bible Study at the home of Tony & Ginger White
 5:30 p.m. - Confirmation Class
 7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir
- Thursday: 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study with Peggy & Harding Rogers
 7:00 p.m. - Sisters in Christ (No. 2) in the parlor
- Friday: 5:00 p.m. - Pancake Supper for Mwandu Endowment
 10:00 p.m. - PYF 5th Quarter
- Saturday: 7:00 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast and Yard Sale for Mwandu Endowment
- Sunday 10-23: 8:30 a.m. - Early Worship Celebration
 9:45 a.m. - Church School
 11:00 a.m. - Worship Celebration
 5:13 p.m. - PYF
 7:00 p.m. - Session



CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: All the members of the congregation

Interim Pastor: Russell Mase

Director of Music: Alan Sledge

Director of Christian Education: Ellen Auten

Preschool Director: Nancy Kortright

Treasurer: LuAnne Sledge

Associate Pastor: Fred Coates

Organist: Christy Floyd

Secretary: Nellie Goodman

Custodian: Billy Black

Hostess: Jennifer Jordan

First Presbyterian Church

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The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth be silent before Him...

Habakkuk 2:20