

PASTORAL PRAYER 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, for ever. Amen.

RECEPTION OF OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD

OFFERTORY - *"God's Time Is the Best"* - arr. Biggs
(Sinfona to Cantata No. 106 - Bach)

* DOXOLOGY - *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"* - #609

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known; Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF OUR OFFERING

* CLOSING HYMN - *"Will You Come and Follow Me"* - #726

* BENECTION

* BENECTION RESPONSE - *"Let There Be Peace on Earth"*

*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, brothers all are we;
Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now;
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.*

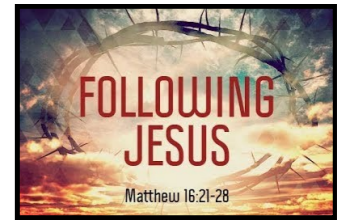
* POSTLUDE - *"Triumphal March"* - Stickles



FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA

Rev. Brian R. Louis, Pastor
Monica Russell, CRE, Guest Pastor
Elder George Wheat, Worship Leader
Janis Wheat, Director of Music
Debi Godwin, Choir Director



Order of Worship

14th Sunday of Pentecost

September 3, 2023

At the sound of the chimes, please use this time to silently prepare for worship.

CHIMES

PRELUDE *"El Shaddai"* - arr. Wyrzten

GREETING This is the day that the Lord has made!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT - *"We Are Standing on Holy Ground"* - #406

*We are standing on holy ground,
and I know that there are angels all around;
let us praise Jesus now;
we are standing in his presence on holy ground.*

* CALL TO WORSHIP – (responsively)

Followers of Christ, God calls us just as we are to live as truth-tellers and gospel-bringers in the world.

God, we know you call us, and still, we ask, "Who am I that you would call me?"

Like Moses standing before the burning bush convinced of his unworthiness to lead your people out of bondage, we ask,

"Who am I that you would call me?"

Like Peter who thought he got it right only to realize that who Jesus is doesn't meet his expectations of who a Savior should be, we ask,

"Who am I that you would call me?"

As we raise this question to God today, we open our hearts to receive God's answer:

You are my beloved children. You are my disciples. You are my people called to share the love of God for the transformation of the world. Amen.

* **OPENING HYMN - "Here I Am, Lord" - #69**

* **THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)**

Gracious God,

Though we live in a culture that is reluctant to admit guilt, assume responsibility, or ask for forgiveness, we are so bold as to pray the words of the psalmist who said: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Search us, O God, and reveal anything in our lives that stands between us and your love. Show us our sins so that we might confess them. Show us places where we have neglected Christian responsibility and then teach us how to live on this earth with each other. Search us, O God, and show us the faces of those we have wronged so that we might seek their forgiveness.

~ Let us take a few minutes for silent reflection ~

* **THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsively)**

We have not been called to this hour of worship to wallow in sin and self-pity. God has promised to forgive our sins when we confess them and to cleanse us from all manner of unrighteousness. God forgives us so that we might live as people of love and hope. Rise as children of God, forgiven from sin and empowered to lead holy lives.

ALL: AMEN, thanks be to God.

* **GLORIA PATRI - "Glory Be to the Father"**

*Glory be to the Father; and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

***PASSING OF THE PEACE (responsively)**

Be kind to one another, and tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

(You are invited to offer your neighbor a brief sign of peace.)

THE WELCOMING OF GUESTS

We invite our guests to use the nametags in the attendance pads to identify themselves so that we may get to know each other.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDRENS TIME - Elder Richard Carter

SPECIAL MUSIC - "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow" - Stamphill

George Van Otten, soloist

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

In your grace Lord, guide our thoughts and minds closer to you and your Word and may its wisdom and truth be emblazoned on our hearts, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE – Exodus 3:1-15
Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE – Matthew 16:21-28
Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "From This Time On"

* **OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD "The 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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose 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.

SHARING OUR PRAYERS OF JOYS AND CONCERNS