



First  
Presbyterian  
Church of Monroe

1820 to 2020

Celebrating  
200 Years  
of Faith  
&  
Service



**August 2, 2020**

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The mission of the First Presbyterian Church is to be ambassadors for Jesus Christ and to proclaim his salvation in worship, education, and outreach.

# Ninth Sunday after Pentecost and Communion Sunday

## OPENING WORDS

selected verses from Psalm 145

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**The Lord is good to all, and God's compassion is over all that God has made.**

The Lord is just in all God's ways, and kind in all God's doings.

**The Lord is near to all who call on God, to all who call on God in truth.**

My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,

**and all flesh will bless God's holy name forever and ever.**

## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Isaiah 55:1-3

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

**Why do we spend our money for that which is not bread,  
and our labor for that which does not satisfy?**

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me! Listen, so that you may live!

## OPENING HYMN #475 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" vss. 1,2,3

- 1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above; praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!
- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
- 3 O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Isaiah 55:6-9

As we come before the Throne of Grace, hear these words from the prophet Isaiah: Seek the Lord while God may be found, call upon God while God is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that God may have mercy on them, and to our God, for God will abundantly pardon. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways”, says the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God,

We think we can buy our way into happiness.

**We consume and consume, but we are not satisfied.**

We think we can quench our thirst with alcohol and drugs.

**We consume and consume, but we are not satisfied.**

We think we can gratify our hunger with clamoring voices.

**We consume and consume, but we are not satisfied.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

*Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Isaiah 55:12-13

Hear these words of assurance from the prophet Isaiah:

*For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.*

Sisters and brothers of Monroe, take hold of the forgiveness of Christ and live in peace.

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

SONG OF AFFIRMATION #581 “Glory Be to the Father”

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

## TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Isaiah 55:10-11

As we prepare our hearts to hear God's Word, listen to this promise from Isaiah:  
*For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*

## FIRST READING – Psalm 23

**The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul.  
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil: For Thou *art* with me;  
Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:  
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely Goodness and Mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING — Matthew 14:3-21

Herod had arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because John had been telling him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." Though Herod wanted to put him to death, he feared the crowd, because they regarded him as a prophet. But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before the company, and she pleased Herod so much that he promised on oath to grant her whatever she might ask. Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a platter." The king was grieved, yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he commanded it to be given; he sent and had John beheaded in the prison. The head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, who brought it to her mother. His disciples came and took the body and buried it; then they went and told Jesus.

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.

When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me."

Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.

And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Pamela Short

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—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 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.**

HYMN #525

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

vss. 1,2,3

- 1 Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees) let us break bread together on our knees.  
(on our knees)  
Refrain  
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)
- 2 Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees) let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees)  
Refrain
- 3 Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees) let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees)  
Refrain

## CALL TO OFFERING

In Psalm 145:16 we read “You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.” As you ponder your week, where have you seen God’s hand open to you?... To your neighbors?... To creation?...

Let us open our hands this week that others may be satisfied and give thanks to God.

## DOXOLOGY

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Dear Jesus, as you blessed the loaves and the fish, so bless these gifts that they might multiply and feed those who are yearning for your loving care. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(Pray for those who are ill and all health care workers and those in essential jobs serving us. Pray for our congregation now separated. Pray for our country’s leaders as they make tough decisions. Pray for our world.)*

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### INVITATION

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

A foretaste of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

They will come from the heavens and the earth;

From planets and space stations.

They will come from east and west, from north and south,

From the cities and the fields; from the mountains and the rain forest.

The old and the young shall come; the babes and the barren shall rejoice together.

The poor shall sit with the rich and the mighty take a seat with the simple.

Children as deep as coal will giggle with those as pale as a peach

and cinnamon hands shall reach out to the tan on one side and cocoa colored palms

on the other. The table of the LORD shall feed us all! With glad hearts we will

celebrate with the Great Shepherd that the sheep are gathered in!

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Sisters and Brothers, the LORD be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O LORD our God, Creator and Ruler of the universe. In your wisdom, you made all things and sustain them by your power. You formed us in your image, setting us in this world to love and to serve you, and to live in peace with your whole creation.

**When we rebelled against you refusing to trust and obey you,  
you did not reject us, but still claimed us as your own.**

**You sent prophets to call us back to your way.**

Then in the fullness of time, out of your great love for the world, you came as a Child to be one of us, to redeem us and heal our brokenness. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty. In Jesus, born of Mary, your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. In Jesus, you lived as one of us, knowing joy and sorrow.

In Jesus, you healed the sick,  
fed the hungry,  
opened blind eyes,  
broke bread with outcasts and sinners,  
and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom to the poor and needy.

Dying on the cross, Christ gave himself for the life of the world.  
Rising from the grave, Christ won for us victory over death.  
Seated at your right hand, Christ leads us to eternal life.  
We praise you that Christ now reigns with you in glory,  
and will come again to make all things new.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again.**

Gracious God pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in Jesus' name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us to be the body of Christ in the world. By the fire of your spirit, O God, forge us into one church, many and different people, together in Christ's embrace.

Set our hearts aflame with a love for the truth and the desire to do your will, that our witness to Christ may burn brightly in lives of joyful discipleship. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church now and forever. Amen.

#### 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

L. We thank you that on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

L. In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

#### DISTRIBUTION

#### PRAYER

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves to others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.



HYMN #187

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

vss. 1,3,4

- 1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care. In your pleasant pastures feed us; for our use your fold prepare. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.
- 3 You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be; you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
- 4 Early let us seek your favor; early let us do your will. Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

**Ushers:** John Chesman and George Kostoff

**About our Guest Minister**

Rev. Pamela Short comes from a farm community in Fulton County. She was surrounded by generations of people who lived in love and gratitude to Jesus, as well as neighbors who understood the value of fellowship, kindness, and laughter. She has had a diverse vocational history, with the privilege of practicing nursing, teaching world religions, and serving three churches in pastoral ministry. Pamela recently retired after ministering with the people of the Tontogany Presbyterian Church for 8 ½ years. “I grew up as an Anabaptist and was baptized at the Evangelical Mennonite Church in Archbold, Ohio at the age of 12. Because of the Christian education I received there, as well as excellent teaching from the committed professors of the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, I am without excuse should my preaching stray from the Good News of God’s love.” Pamela lives in Bowling Green with her husband, Peter. They have 2 children and 3 grandchildren. Samuel and Isaac live in Perrysburg and Jaden is in Glory with Christ Jesus.