



First  
Presbyterian  
Church of Monroe

1820 to 2020

Celebrating  
200 Years  
of Faith  
&  
Service



**July 19, 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.

# Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

## OPENING WORDS

Friends, join me as we gather, opening our hearts and minds to the Lord.

**We feel the welcoming embrace of God as we enter into worship.**

Let us lay down our present challenges.

**We offer our thanksgiving, grateful to be together to worship God in response to God's love and grace for us.**

## PRELUDE

“His Eye is on the Sparrow”

## CALL TO WORSHIP

God has created each of us in God's image.

**We are reflections of God who knows everything about us.**

Our God calls us, with all our challenges and imperfections.

**We offer ourselves as servants into relationship with God and God's people.**

Let us worship and celebrate our Lord as God's beloved people.

**Hallelujah!**

## OPENING HYMN #834 “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” vss. 1, 2

- 1 Precious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn. Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light; take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.
- 2 When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near; when my life is almost gone, hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall; take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Our loving Creator God knows us and loves us as we are and continues to reach out to us as God's beloved people. As we rest in God's love, let us confess our sins.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of Grace and Truth, you call us to be your servant people, yet most of our time is spent focused on ourselves and our desires rather than yours. You give us each particular gifts, and yet we fail to recognize and celebrate them in ourselves and others. We spend a lot of time judging, thinking that we know best and pretending that we are discerning your will. So often we can't hear your quiet, gentle voice because we are making too much noise about unimportant things. Forgive us for the ways in which we fail to listen to your voice. Open our eyes to all the reminders of your love and grace right in front of us. Help us to see your Spirit of Truth in ourselves and one another. Encourage us to discern Your will rather than our own. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

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

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the Good News! God hears our voices crying out and offers the peace we seek. Let us proclaim the good news! In the name of Jesus, the Christ, we are forgiven. Celebrate and know that God's heart, the Spirit, dwells in each of us.

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

*If worshipping from home please call others after worship, if here in person, please just turn around where you are and nod to one another in 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

Creator God, open our hearts and minds to hear your word for our lives. May it light anew the Spirit of Wisdom within us. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING — Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING — Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON:

“To Weed or Not To Weed”

Debra Davies

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 #367

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

vss. 2, 3

- 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit in the thankful praise to yield, wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown. First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear. Lord of harvest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be.
- 3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home; from each field shall in that day all offenses purge away; give the angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast, but the fruitful ears to store in God's garner evermore.

CALL TO OFFERING

*Please reflect on the blessings God has given you and how you might reach out.*

OFFERTORY

“God Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Loving God, we experience your bountiful love in so many ways. We pledge these tokens of our love and gratitude to your service and ask that they be multiplied in your ministry throughout the world to bring justice and peace. **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.*)

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.**

HYMN #37

“Let All Things Now Living”

vss. 1, 2

- 1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise; who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days. God’s banners are o’er us; pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night: till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished, as forward we travel from light into light.
- 2 By law God enforces, the stars in their courses, the sun in its orbit obediently shine; the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine. We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration, a song let us raise, till all things now living unite in thanksgiving: to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

CHARGE AND BLESSING

God welcomes us with love and joy. Let us share God’s joyous love with all. Let us stand with all God’s children for justice and reconciliation. May the blessing of God, the Creator; the grace of Jesus, the Redeemer; and the comfort and love of the Spirit, the Sustainer, go with all of us as we leave this service. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Guest Musician: Susan Downing

Ushers: Jim Crammond and Helyn Schroeder

***About Our Guest Speaker***

*Debra Davies, M.Div., is a graduate of San Francisco Theological Seminary (1998). She is a Ruling Elder of 40 years, having served four different congregations in that role as well as Clerk of Session in two congregations. She has long been involved in ecumenical activities, visited churches on three continents, and values the diversity of people of faith across Christian and non-Christian denominations and traditions. Committed to life-long learning, she teaches adult education classes focused on exploring questions of life and faith.*