



First  
Presbyterian  
Church of Monroe

1820 to 2020

Celebrating  
200 Years  
of Faith  
&  
Service



**August 9, 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.

# Tenth 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

## 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 #42      "Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure"      vss. 1,3,4

- 1      Your faithfulness, O Lord, is sure in all your words, your gracious deeds; you gently lift all burdened souls and well provide for all our needs.
- 3      Lord, you are just in all your ways, and kind in everything you do; forever near you stand to hear and help all those who call on you.
- 4      My mouth shall speak your praise, O Lord; my soul shall bless your holy name; let all things living join the song of praise, from age to age the same.

## 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

(Psalm 85:1-9)

**Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger. Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us. Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations? Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.**

**Let us hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

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

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(Psalm 85:10-13)

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps. In the name of Jesus, the Christ, we are forgiven.

## 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 — Matthew 14:22-33

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING — 1 Kings 19:9-18

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON:

“What are you doing here?”

Debra Davies

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—From “The Belhar Confession”

**We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.**

**We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.**

**We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain.**

HYMN #309

“Come, Great God of All the Ages”

vss. 1,3,4

- 1 Come, great God of all the ages; make your earthly mission known; speak through every deed and person; let your way and will be shown. Guide the church to true commitment; give direction now, we ask; fit us for the work of building; dedicate us to the task.
- 3 Come, great Spirit, in and with us, tune our ears to hear your call; through the moving of your presence, let redeeming love recall ministry in dedication, love embodied in our deeds; challenge us to do your bidding, see your purpose, fill our needs.
- 4 Come, O come, in celebration, household of the one true God; in commitment and rejoicing let us go where Christ has trod; as we act in faith and reverence, let us, Lord, the future see; place us in the church triumphant, now and for eternity.

CALL TO OFFERING

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

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 #13 "The Mighty God with Power Speaks" vss. 1,2,3

- 1 The Mighty God with power speaks, and all the world obeys; from dawn until the setting sun, God's wonder earth displays. The perfect beauty all around from Zion's height shines forth; and stars across the firmament so brightly beam their worth.
- 2 God comes not with a silent form, but riding on the winds; before God's face, the raging storm its blast of thunder sends. All hail the Judge, in bold array; whose promise is to bless; who sees our sins, yet also feels our thirst for righteousness.
- 3 The heavens declare your justice, Lord, as endless as the sky; against the taunts of disbelief, our God will testify. Receive my heartfelt gift of thanks, as honor to your might; refresh my faith with each new day; protect me through the night.

## 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.**

**Ushers:** Marilyn Marshall and Kim Hooper

### *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.*