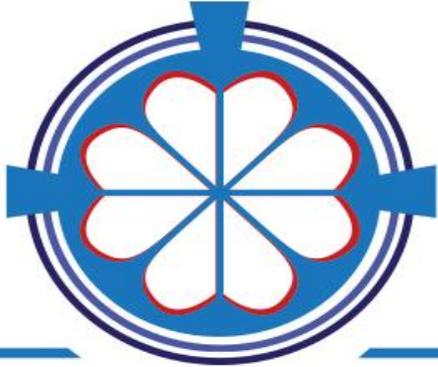


F i r s t 

Presbyterian

Church of Monroe

November 22, 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.

Christ the King Sunday

WELCOME

OPENING WORD

adapted from Psalm 95: 1, 7

O come let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. For we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 100

Diane Adams

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God.

All: It is the Lord that made us, and we are God's; we are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.

One: Enter the Lord's gates with thanksgiving, and the Lord's courts with praise. Give thanks to the Lord, bless God's name. For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.

All: The Lord is good; we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

One: Let us pray: Shepherd God, your goodness and steadfast love endure forever. We thank you for your faithfulness to all generations. We worship you, for you alone are our God. Amen.

HYMN #266

"Joy to the World"

vss. 2 and 4

- 2 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

God is near but often we fail to sense God's presence. Focused only on our self-interests, we are unable to see and treat others with love. Yet there is a wideness in God's mercy. Confident our Shepherd God's steadfast love and goodness, we boldly confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Lord of all and Love of the Universe, we confess that our priorities come before of our loyalty to you. We focus on ourselves and are unwilling to care for those in need. Creation groans under the weight of self-interests and our lack of loving care. We step over those without earthly status and seek out those who we think can benefit us. Forgive us, Lord. Free us from a past we cannot change. By your grace turn us toward you. Heal our brokenness and transform us into a people who reflect your love. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

“I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep,” says the Lord. Christ alone is judge; and Christ is merciful. Christ is eager to forgive and abounding in steadfast love. Friends, believe the good news. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven; be at peace.

All: Thanks be to God!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

SONG OF AFFIRMATION #2167 (Sing The Faith) “More Like You”

More like you, Jesus more like you. Fill my heart with your desire to make me more like you. More like you, Jesus more like you. Touch my lips with holy fire and make me more like you. Lord, you are my mercy. Lord, you are my grace. All my deepest sins have forever been erased. Draw me in your presence. Lead me in your ways. I long to bring you glory in righteousness and praise.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Diane Adams

Holy One, as Scripture is read, quiet in us any voice but yours. Amen.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Diane Adams

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

Diane Adams

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25: 31-46

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH¹

Diane Adams

Unison: In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in the God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the renewer of life. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit give us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of people long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace. Our chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy God forever.

HYMN #122 "Blessed Are They" vss. 3 and 4

3 Blest are they; the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God. Blest are they full of sorrow, they shall be consoled.

Refrain

Rejoice! And be glad, blessed are you, holy are you, rejoice! And be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.

4 Blest are they who seek peace. They are the children of God. Blest are they who suffer in faith, the glory of God is theirs.

Refrain

CALL TO OFFERING

Diane Adams

One: Through our tithes and offerings, Our Shepherd God relentlessly seeks and tenderly cares for God's people and God's creation. Let us give from a place of gratitude for what has been given to us.

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Diane Adams

Holy One, we pray for wisdom to be good stewards. Use these gifts to feed and care for all of creation. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

(Hold in your heart those who are sick; those who are on ventilators; those who are suffering; those who are dying. Pray for all health care workers and essential workers, who risk their lives in service of God and neighbor. Pray for scientists and researchers in their efforts to develop a COVID-19 vaccine. Pray for our FPC Monroe beloved community—those who enter through our virtual front door and those who enter through our wooden front door. Pray for our nation...for local, state, and national leaders and for world leaders that they will govern justly and show empathy, compassion, and mercy. Pray for our Earth and all creation.)

LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

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 #647

"Give Thanks"

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!" And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

POSTLUDE

