

*First Presbyterian Church of Monroe
21st Sunday after Pentecost
October 17, 2021*



*“It’s not our differences that divide us.
It is our inability to recognize, accept and celebrate those differences.”*

Audre Lorde

GATHERING

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Gene Haman

Jesus says:

Blessed are those who hunger
and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

**And blessed is the church
that trusts in the grace of Christ
to build congregational vitality.**

Jesus says:

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted
for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you
and utter all kinds of evil against you
falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward is great in heaven.

**And blessed is the church
that seeks by the power of the Spirit
to dismantle structural racism.**

GATHERING PRAYER

Gene Haman

Holy God, by your Word and Spirit,
come and transform your church
to be a living sign of your love for the world—
where the poor are filled with good things,
the dividing walls are broken down,
and the dead are raised to new life;
through Christ, who is in all things. **Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

GTG 32

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

A voice is crying out in the wilderness
Prepare the way of the Lord.
Trusting God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Time of silence for personal confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have wandered
from your way of truth and life.

You call us to set the captives free
and seek justice for the oppressed,
but we live in fear of our neighbors
and hide ourselves from our own kin.

You call us to walk in newness of life
and to be witnesses to the resurrection,
but we dwell in the valley of dry bones
and keep silent about your saving love.

Forgive us, God of grace.
Set us free from sin, death and fear
so that we may serve you with gladness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the gift of the Holy Spirit. I declare to you in the name of
Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

SUNG RESPONSE

"Spirit of the Living God"

GTG 288

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Gene Haman

A STORY FOR ALL AGES

(A time for children young in years or young at heart)

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gene Haman

Speak to us, O God, with the voice of your Holy Spirit,
that we may know the way of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

First Reading
Gospel Reading

Psalm 91:9-16
Mark 10:35-45

Gene Haman
Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Brief Statement of Faith (excerpts)

We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives.**

We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

**In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally
in God's image to live as one community.**

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

**The Spirit justifies us by grace
through faith and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

With believers in every time and place,
**we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God
in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*HYMN

*"Love Has Broken Down the Wall"
Words and Music by Mark Miller*

OFFERING

Gene Haman

*HYMN

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

GTG 606

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

LORD'S PRAYER

Text: Dr. Antonio Maurice McNeill

Tune: NETTLETON (87 87D)

This paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer is dedicated to the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA.

Used with permission from Dr. Antonio Maurice McNeill.

The tune Nettleton appeared in *John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music (1813)*.

*Our God who art in heaven, Hallow' d be thy matchless name.
Let your Kingdom reign in heaven, Dwell on earth in us the same.
Give us Lord, this day for worship, Give us manna from on high.
Give us bread to serve your Kingdom, Lord your name we glorify.*

*Lord, forgive us, free us, love us, Grant us wisdom to forgive.
Lead us not into temptation, Grant us grace so we can live.
Evil cannot stand against us, Your deliverance we need.
Bind us Lord, to one another, We, your church, your love receive.*

*Thine the kingdom, thine the power, Thine the glory evermore.
Thine all majesty and honor, God, to you we praise, adore.
You are God, you reign forever, "Sovereign, Holy Lord!" we sing.
Our God who art in heaven, Lord, eternal king of kings.*

SENDING

*HYMN

"Come Live in the Light"
(We Are Called)

GTG 749

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

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Liturgy used adapted. *Worship in a Matthew 25 Church, Resources for Congregations and Presbyteries*. Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Presbyterian Mission.

Evening prayer used/adapted from *Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion, Yr. B., Volume 2*. Westminster John Knox Press. Louisville. 2015. p. 215.

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Evening Prayer
October 17-October 23

*O God, our nail in a sure place,
be my light and shelter me this night,
that I may know your faithfulness
and rest in your salvation. Amen.*

FPC Monroe Worship Team

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler, Pastor
Rob Edwards, Director of Music
Gene Haman, Liturgist
Isaac Fankhauser, Sound Team
Randy Stiffler, Sound Team
Jim Crammond, Usher
Helyn Schroeder, Usher



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First Presbyterian Church of Monroe

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Dale DeSloover

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