

*First Presbyterian Church of Monroe*  
*22nd Sunday after Pentecost*  
*October 24, 2021*



*“Whoever oppresses the poor insult their Maker, but those who are kind to the needy honor him.” — Proverbs 14:31, NRSV*

*“Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life.”*  
*Nelson Mandella*

# GATHERING

## WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

## PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Tom Bajkiewicz

Jesus says:

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

**And blessed is the church  
that serves with the love of God  
to eradicate systemic poverty.**

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

Tom Bajkiewicz

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

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

GTG 385

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

From the cross our Savior cries:  
My people, my church,  
why have you forsaken me?

When we satisfy ourselves with a rich feast  
and pass by those who beg for bread —  
we have made a cross for our Savior.  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

When we are drunk with power and privilege  
and ignore those who thirst for justice and dignity —  
we have made a cross for our Savior.  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

When we open our hands to grasp and take  
and close our doors to strangers in need —  
we have made a cross for our Savior.  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

When we adorn ourselves with honor  
and despise the naked because of their skin —  
we have made a cross for our Savior.  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

When we anoint ourselves with precious oil  
and deny healing and wholeness to others —  
we have made a cross for our Savior.  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

When we flaunt and abuse our freedom  
and allow the oppressed to remain in captivity —  
we have made a cross for our Savior.  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

When we sing your praises  
and study your teaching  
and say prayers in your name  
and still fail to recognize you  
in the faces of our neighbors —  
we have made a cross for our Savior.  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

*Time of silence for personal confession*

## **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

### **SUNG RESPONSE**

“Spirit of the Living God”

GTG 288

### **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Tom Bajkiewicz

### **A STORY FOR ALL AGES**

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

Tom Bajkiewicz

## **WORD**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Tom Bajkiewicz

Liturgist Prays:

Dear God, let us not only hear you but see you with our own eyes through your Word. Amen

### **SCRIPTURE**

First Reading

Psalm 34:1-8

Tom Bajkiewicz

Gospel Reading

Mark 10:46-52

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

### **SERMON**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

### **\*AFFIRMATION 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.**

*A Brief Statement of Faith*

*Systemic Poverty*

*Structural Racism*

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.**

**OFFERING**

Tom Bajkiewicz

Liturgists says:

Jesus says: The realm of heaven has come near. Freely you have received; therefore, freely give.  
Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

**\*HYMN**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

GTG 606

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Tom Bajkiewicz

We give you thanks and praise, O Lord:  
You have created us in your own image.  
You have claimed us as your beloved people.  
You have called us to be a blessing for others.  
Use the gifts of your good creation  
and the works of our hands  
to lift up the oppressed,  
break down dividing walls,  
and build up your church;  
all in the name and for the sake  
of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

**INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Jesus says: Come to me,  
all you that are weary  
and are carrying heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest.  
Take my yoke upon you  
and learn from me;  
for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.  
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

**Holy One, gentle and humble in heart,  
We come to you  
and take your yoke upon us.  
We want to learn from you. Amen.**

Do you accept Jesus's invitation to be a Matthew 25 disciple in this Matthew 25 church?

**We do.**

## LITANY OF COMMITMENT

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Will you devote yourself  
to doing justice, loving kindness,  
and walking humbly with your God?

**We will, with God's help.**

Will you devote yourself  
to breaking down the walls of hostility  
that separate us from one another?

**We will, with God's help.**

Will you devote yourself  
to the church's teaching and fellowship,  
to the breaking of bread and the prayers?

**We will, with God's help.**

## \*HYMN

"Love Has Broken Down the Wall"

*Words and Music by Mark Miller*

## 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**

“What Is the World Like”

GTG 771

### **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Blessed are those who serve the poor,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who share the wealth,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who work for good,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who open doors,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who break down walls,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who challenge hate,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who live their faith,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who speak the truth,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who show Christ’s love,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

**Video: “Close to Your Heart” (Psalm 15)**

Words and Music: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Used with permission from Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

**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.

Morning 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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**Morning Prayer**  
**October 25-October 31**

*O God, our nail in a sure place,  
guard my way and guide my steps this day,  
that I may serve you faithfully  
and trust in your salvation. Amen.*



MATTHEW 25



**FPC Monroe Worship Team**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler, Pastor  
Rob Edwards, Director of Music  
Tom Bajkiewicz, Liturgist  
Isaac Fankhauser, Sound Team  
Randy Stiffler, Sound Team  
Jim Heisler, Usher  
Sue Heisler, Usher



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**First Presbyterian Church of Monroe**

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