

First Presbyterian Church of Monroe
18th Sunday after Pentecost
September 26, 2021



GATHERING

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Yoshie Pomerville

If it had not been for God, who was on our side,
we would have fallen prey to those who want to harm us;
we would have been swept away by sadness and fear.

Blessed be the Lord, our protector!

God has broken the snare that took away our freedom.
Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Blessed be God's holy name!

GATHERING PRAYER

Yoshie Pomerville

God of courage, you gave Esther the strength to speak out
and the intelligence she needed to save her people.
Help us to believe
that you are still present and active in this world
and that your grace remains an everlasting force in our lives.
In the name of Christ we pray. **Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN

"Here in This Place"

GTG 401

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of unity,
we live in a world where our lives move
between inclusivity and exclusivity.
We often move toward the latter,
trying to oust from our circles
those who do not think like us,
act like us
or look like us.
Forgive our need to reject
and to always be on the lookout
for those things that make us different.
Give us the eyes of our Teacher,
who knows unconditional love and compassion
and see us all as one,
for it is in our Teacher's name that we pray. **Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

SUNG RESPONSE

"Give Thanks"

GTG 647

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Yoshie Pomerville

A STORY FOR ALL AGES

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

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Yoshie Pomerville

Your Word is our salt; without it, we lose our being, our joy, and our ability to endure. Open our hearts and our minds To listen, to really listen, to your Word today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

First Reading:

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Yoshie Pomerville

Gospel Reading:

Mark 9:38-50

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

*HYMN

"We Cannot Measure How You Heal"

GTG 797

OFFERING

Yoshie Pomerville

*HYMN

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

GTG 609

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

SENDING

***HYMN**

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

GTG 66

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Front Cover Art: Blakeman, Charles F. Esther and Ahasuerus, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56630>.
Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/paullew/8493819053> - Fr Lawrence Lew, O.P.

Liturgy used adapted. Long, Kimberley Bracken, Editor. *Feasting on the Word*. Westminster John Knox Press. Louisville. 2015. p. 181-185.

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Evening Prayer
September 26-October 2

*God, was I an agent of hope and wholeness to others as you have been to me?
As the day winds down,
Help me to think of those times during the day when I lived in your grace
And the times when I failed to be salt in your world.
Keep working in my life, through the power of your Spirit,
So that day by day I become more like you.
In the name of the Holy One, I pray.
Amen.*

Pastor Doris—Contact Information

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FPC Monroe Worship Team

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler, Pastor
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Yoshie Pomerville, Liturgist
Isaac Fankhauser, Sound Team
Randy Stiffler, Sound Team
Jim Heisler, Usher
Sue Heisler, Usher



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