

Service of the Lord's Day
Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 17, 2017

Prelude

Greeting and News of the Church

Time of Preparation

*Call to Worship

One: Disciples and doubters, faithful and feckless,

All: We are God's, who welcomes us all.

One: Followers and those who lag behind, open-hearted and close-minded,

All: We are Christ's, who is always patient with us.

One: Reconcilers and rabble-rousers, foolish and fearless,

All: We are the Spirit's, who encourages us in every moment, as we join in worship together. Amen.

‡ Hymn #261 “God Of Compassion, In Mercy Befriend Us”

The Prayer of Confession

We could have mercy, Compassion's heart, but we judge others by those standards we cannot even meet. We could welcome all around us as sisters and brothers, but sometimes we hold them at a distance. We could have patience with family and friends, but instead we tap our feet and drum our fingers until they do what we want.

In your forgiveness, Tender God, you wipe the board clean of all our poor accounting. You don't deal off the bottom of the deck to us, but turn up the ace of grace for us. You gather up all our foolishness and hurl it beyond the edge of the universe, so the healing you intend for us through Jesus Christ, our Savior, will take place. Amen.

Time of Silent Prayer

Assurance of Forgiveness

‡ Response #464 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” (1st verse)

Time with Young Disciples

Scripture Reading Romans 14:5-12 (NT p. 1124)

Special Music

Scripture Reading Matthew 18: 21-35 (NT p. 975)

Sermon “Forgiveness” Rev. Laura Niles Finch

‡ Hymn #298 “There's A Wideness In God's Mercy”

Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Offertory/Offering

‡ Doxology #592

‡ Offertory Prayer

May these simple gifts offer a welcome to the friendless, a meal for the hungry, shelter for those in disasters, and hope for all who are despised in our times. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

‡ Hymn # 280 “Amazing Grace, How Sweet The Sound”

‡ Charge/Benediction

‡ *Please stand, if able* * “Amen” sung after first and last hymn

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are pleased to WELCOME those visiting with us today, and hope you will return and worship with us again.

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Warmly greet one another, and particularly any guests and visitors.

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Co-Pastor-Rev. Laura Niles Finch
Worship Associate-
Organist-Marcia Thornton
Violinist-Eric Sewell
Ushers –

THIS WEEK

Today		Discussion in the Library
Wed.	6:00	Bible Study in the Library, studying Amos
Thurs.	10:00	Bible study in the Library, we are studying The Thirteen Apostles-this week Peter
Sun.	9:00	Worship

On Sunday, October 1st following worship we will be having a congregational conversation to bring everyone up to date on the financial circumstances of the church as we begin our planning for the 2018 Budget. The Session members would greatly appreciate your questions, ideas and perspectives as we try to plan responsibly for the future of our church family. This gathering will be an informal discussion, with no official actions being taken. We need your input and support! THANK YOU!!



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Co-Pastors

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