

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 13, 2022 10:30 a.m. Worship



JESUS MAFA. Jesus speaks about forgiveness, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48384> [retrieved November 9, 2022]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

Then turning toward the woman, [Jesus] said to Simon, “Do you see this woman?”
Luke 7:44a

First Presbyterian Church

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COMMISSIONED LOCAL PASTOR: DR. WENDY L. LAMB

PASTOR EMERITUS: REV. JAMES C. HUFFSTUTLER

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: CURTISS ALLEN, JR., DIRECTOR OF MUSIC;

WILLIAM ZEITLER, ORGANIST; AMY GANO, BELLS

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church

This service is being livestreamed and can be viewed on our YouTube channel in real time or as a recording. **Large-print copies of this order of service**, as well as **audio enhancement devices** are available **from the ushers**.

We gather on Sunday for 3 reasons:

- **To seek God**- whom we find in sacred text and sacrament, in music and in song, in prayer, in the beauty of this space, in the stillness where we can hear our hearts. We offer God our thanks and praise, our lament and longing, and our resources. We let go of burdens and receive grace and forgiveness. We see the One our hearts love.
- **To practice Community** – rejoice w/those who rejoice, weep w/those who weep. To break bread with those whom we love and those whom we need to love more fully. We practice things our culture does not emphasize: resting, forgiving, sharing. Jesus asked us to love one another as he loved us, and we cannot do so without practice.
- **To listen for our Call**- often an invitation to go out and be or do or remember. God is speaking all the time: through conscience, nature, friends, and certainly scripture. We gather to listen for that Call and to recommit ourselves to discipleship.

Information on our common life can be found on our website www.fpcsb.net, along with sermons and newsletters. You can participate in our work by supporting us financially with a one-time or sustaining donation.

Children are **welcome** in worship. Younger children may go to the Nursery at any time.

OUR NEXT COMMUNION will be Sunday, December 4th.

Morning Worship†

Lector: David Dennis

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

Faith communities (from local churches to denominations to internet chats to religious broadcasting, etc.) teach people – consciously or unconsciously – ways of seeing. Some teach to see others with judgment (insider? outsider?), fear (for us? against us?), superiority (good enough for my acceptance? not good enough?), etc. Again, it seems to me that Jesus invites us to see in a radically different way – reminding us that God gives rain and sun to everyone alike, so we should see everyone as beloved and blessed by God as our first habitual response.

--Brian McLaren; Seeing, Morality, and Vision blogpost

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Prelude in E

Bach-maninoff

J.S. Bach, arranged by S. Rachmaninoff

Allow the music to usher you into sacred space and time.

*CALL to WORSHIP

Mighty God, You welcome us into Your Kingdom as honored guests.

✘ **You forgive our debts and give us a seat at Your table.**

Wondrous God, we have come here to give You our worship and praise.

✘ **May we make a joyful noise at Your table!**

*HYMN 39

Great Is thy Faithfulness

PRAYER of CONFESSION¹

✘ **Eternal God, Creator, Redeemer and Comforter,
we come to you with the words and works,
the desires, and hopes, and fears,
that dominate our everyday lives.**

† The symbols you will see in this order of worship mean:

* **Stand if you are able** ✘ **The congregation will read.**

¹ Rev. Adam Hood, Church of Scotland

Hear us as we confess our wrongdoings.
 Often we wear ourselves down with a pretence of righteousness.
 Today, we throw off this attempt,
 simply admitting our failure
 to live in the way of Christ.

(Moment for silent reflection and confession)

Help us to live in your peace as your beloved.

CHOIR RESPONSE *Spirit of the Living God*² *Daniel Iverson*
 Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me, Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel

✠ In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and are being made whole. Amen.

(We stand and sing Alleluia)

***ALLELUIA**

William Zeitler

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 2. Al - le - lu - ia!

TIME with the CHILDREN

[After Time with the Children, our children pre-Kindergarten through sixth grade are invited to join Jeanne Clark for KidSpace in Room 11. Parents, please pick your children up immediately following worship.

Infants through pre-Kindergarten may go to the Nursery as necessary.]

ANTHEM *And Can It Be That I Should Gain*³ *Jim Taylor*

And can it be that I should gain an int'rest in the Savior's blood? Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued? *Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God shouldst die for me?* He left His Father's throne above, So free, so infinite His grace; Emptied Himself of all but love, And bled for Adam's helpless race; 'Tis mercy all, immense and free; For, O my God, it found out me. *Amazing love! . . . 'Tis mystery all! Th'Immortal dies!* Who can explore His strange design? In vain the first-born seraph tries To sound the depths of love divine! 'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore, Let angel

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minds inquire no more. Long my imprisoned spirit lay fastbound in sin and nature's night; Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray, I woke, the dungeon flamed with light; My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth and followed Thee. *Amazing love!* . . . No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine! Alive in Him, my living Head. And clothed in righteousness divine, Bold I approach th'eternal throne, And claim the crown, through Christ my own. *Amazing love!* . . . Amazing love, that Thou, my God shouldst die for me?

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 35:4-6

Old Testament, page 663

Luke 7:36-50

New Testament, page 66

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Learning to See

Rev. Dr. Sandy Tice

THE OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

(We invite you to respond to God's Word. We offer our gifts to be part of God's purposes in the world. You are invited to bring your offering up to the basket during the offertory. You may also place it in a basket on your way out or send gifts through the mail or online.)

***OFFERTORY**

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

✘ **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost, Amen.**

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and OUR LORD'S PRAYER

✘ **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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
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 726**

Will You Come and Follow Me?

KELVINGROVE

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

Music Box

Two weeks ago we discussed Luther (1483-1546), who initiated the Reformation which split Protestants from the Catholic Church. Then last week we considered Erasmus (1466-1536), a renowned Renaissance scholar, who agreed with Luther's agenda and wanted to see his reforms enacted, but wanted to keep the Church united.

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heavens... a time to rend and a time to sew..." (Ecclesiastes 3) Split apart, come together, a season for both.

A male and female – two separate beings – come together, join and a new fertilized egg results – a brand new unity. And what's the first thing it does? Divide! And keeps on dividing – in an adult human there are approximately 37 trillion cells. (We are both a 'community' and an 'individual'.)

It's a little like that story of the chess board – one grain of wheat on the first square, double that (2) for the next square, double that (now 4) for the next square and keep going. To get to 37 trillion you're looking at about 45 squares. It seems strange to me that, roughly speaking, you go from one cell to a complete human in about 45 generations of cell divisions. (Each of those 37 trillion cells has its own life, ranging in duration from a couple weeks for skin cells to neurons that live as long as we do.)

And ultimately that grown person may – with the help of another 37 trillion-celled person – start the whole union-then-division process all over again.

The eternal dance of the opposites – unite & divide, unite & divide. The endless turning of the wheel – up it goes, then down, then up again. "The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises. The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course." (Ecclesiastes 1)

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943) was one of the great concert pianists of the 20th century. He was also a composer, writing in his own flavor of 'Russian Romanticism' (like Tchaikovsky and Rimsky-Korsakoff). The Rachmaninoffs were minor nobility in Russia before the Bolshevik revolution – Rachmaninoff's father had had to sell all their estates due to financial mismanagement, so they were 'nobility' without any land, surviving in part on the generosity of relatives. But even bottom of the barrel nobility got shot by the Bolsheviks, so Sergei, his wife and children escaped to the Scandinavian West (partly by open sleigh in December)

with little more than a suitcase apiece. Fortunately, Sergei had already established himself as an international concert pianist and conductor, so concerts so he could support his family rapidly ensued. He eventually emigrated to the United States and became a U.S. citizen a few weeks before he died in Los Angeles of advanced melanoma at age 69.

One of his compositions is an arrangement for piano solo of Bach's Prelude in E for solo violin. I've found Bach viewed through the lens of heavy Russian Romanticism a fun perspective!

-- *William Zeitler*