

⁴⁵ “For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

Mark 10:45



Abington Presbyterian Church

October 17, 2021

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

21st Sunday after Pentecost

ORDER OF WORSHIP
21st Sunday after Pentecost October 17, 2021

GATHERING

The people gather wherever they may in response to God's call, offering praise in words of scripture, prayer, and song. The people acknowledge their sinfulness and receive the good news of God's forgiveness.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP *A time for quiet preparation before worship*

Eternal God, everywhere we look we see the imprint of your creative love. The wondrous works of nature show your majesty. As we gather today to celebrate your love and creation, help us to understand our place in your world. Prepare us to work with you in ministries of peace and justice. Amen.

PRELUDE

Elegy

C. H. H. Parry

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Power and might and majesty belong to God who created and is creating.

We are thankful that we can perceive, experience, and celebrate God's mighty wonders.

The One who has created all is present with us this day.

We rejoice that God hears us in this time and place.

No thought or deed escapes God's notice.

We come to face ourselves as we really are, aspiring to become all God wants us to be.

*** HYMN 34**

Bless the Lord, My Soul, and Being!

RUSTINGTON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we can get so caught up in selfish pursuits that we completely overlook the wonders of your involvement with creation. All around us are majestic reminders of the beauty you offer to us. But we are weak and easily fall into an attitude of indifference or into destructive behaviors. You have not given this world to us that we should destroy it, but rather that we should cherish it and make sure that all receive from its bounty. Forgive our overwhelming greed and selfishness. Help us to let go of the petty desires for wealth, position, and power, and bring us into a ministry which proclaims your love and justice for all your people. These things we pray in the name of the Master Servant, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In light, truth, and grace God enfolds us with a love that will not let us go, turning our mourning into joy, our fear into awe, wonder, and rejoicing.

Friends: believe the good news of the gospel -

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

* RESPONSE

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Hymn #582

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

* THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Greet one another with the sign of peace.

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

ANTHEM

Come Down, O Love Divine

arr. Daniel Gawthrop

The Chancel Choir sings a choral arrangement of Hymn #282.

Come down, O Love Divine;
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing.
O Comforter, draw near;
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming.
And let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling.
For none can guess God's grace,
till Love creates a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

WORD

God's Word is read and its message is proclaimed in scripture, music and interpretation.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 104:1-9, 24

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 10:35-45

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Blessing

The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Brief Statement of Faith

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, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,

like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Sarah Caldwell-Berry

THANKSGIVING & SENDING

After the proclamation of God's Word, we respond with gratitude prepared to go into the world where we are called to live according to God's will.

OFFERTORY

Whoever Would Be Great Among You

Ronald A. Nelson

The Chapel Choir sings a setting of verses from today's Gospel reading (Mark 10:43-45)

Whoever would be great among you, must become your servant,
and whoever would be first among you, must be a slave of all.

For the Son of Man came not to be served,
came not to be served, but to serve.

And to give his life, to give his life

As a ransom for many.

* DOXOLOGY

Hymn 606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* HYMN 299

You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

HANOVER

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

Postludio

George Blake

[some announcements follow]

Worship Leaders:

Preacher: The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

Liturgist: The Rev. Aaron Twitchell

Chancel and Chapel Choirs: John Sall, director

Organ: Erik Meyer

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In need of special prayers this week: Len Browna, Sylvia Jolly, MM Harris, Herb Harris, Doris Boerner, Helen Porter (mother of Joe Porter), Suzy Paravla (daughter of Susan Davis), Linda Maisenhelder, Christine Kim (wife of Stephen Kim), Will Pompilli (son of Teresa Pompilli), Wayne Gibbons, Jr., Susan Arnhold (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Kris and Erik Reidenbach (friends of Sally Adams), Judy Meissner, Nina DiTimasso and Audrina Rose (friends of Anne-Marie Constable), Barb Kelly, Susan Johnson, John and Phyllis Frazier, Robin Cupo, Laura Lafferty, Emil Kupper, Joanne Lieb (friend of Ian & Amy Beck), Erma Yerkes.

For Pastoral Care: To notify the church of an illness, hospitalization, death, or to request prayer, contact a minister or call your Deacon or the Church Office at (215) 887-4530.

Abington Presbyterian Church celebrates God's infinite love and believes all people are equal in the eyes of God. We welcome all to worship and serve with us. We seek to work together to oppose intolerance, racism, and injustice that threaten the unity of humankind.