

September 10, 2023
First Presbyterian Church
Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost

We Gather in God's Name

Chiming of the Trinity
Prelude
Welcome and Announcements

We Worship Together

***Call to Worship**

Rev. Gavin Meek

As surely as the new day has dawned, God comes to meet us and be known by us.
We will sing to God and trust God's steadfast love. Our hearts are content rejoicing in God's saving grace.

God gives life to the dead and creates new things from nothing.

We believe, against all hope, that new life can be born in us.

Jesus invited people to fresh starts with the words "Follow me."

We want to respond with our lives, to take the risks of discipleship.

God will raise us up and equip us for our life of service.

We rejoice in God's promises and devote this hour to transformative prayer and praise.

Let us worship God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

***Hymn** 307 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

Prayer of Confession

O God, we have listened to voices other than yours and followed in paths of our own making. We have evaded your commandments and teachings to do what pleases and comforts us. We often lack the will and the strength to change our ways and journey in your way. We do not allow your Spirit to transform us, using us to further your realm here on earth. Have mercy on us and forgive us, we pray, that we may devote ourselves to doing what pleases you, our God. We pray this in the strong name of Jesus Christ, who always journeys with us. *(Silent prayers)* Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

In front of us, behind us, to our right, to our left: look! God is there! In our past, beside us today, waiting in the future: look! God is there! In the shadows, in the light: look! God is there! In the morning, in the evening, in every moment of our lives: God is with us! God calls us to believe and live the Good News!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

***Holy Interruption** *We greet our neighbors in Christ's love*

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem *Peace Like a River with Kum Bah Yah*
Chancel Choir

Shafferfield

***Praise of God**

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** [A Brief Statement of Faith](#) PC(USA)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" 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 Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen, Amen**

Message to the Children

***Hymn 774** *There Is Now a New Creation*

We Receive God's Word

Scripture II Corinthians 5:17-21 and Colossians 3:1-15

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Message "Communion is... Change and Transformation!"

Rev. Gavin Meek

COMMUNION

Invitation

In the Name of the living God

In the Name of the compassionate Christ

In the Name of the enduring Spirit

Come to the table of God.

From East and West, From South and North

From city streets and rural roads

From suburban lawns and urban condominiums

Come, at the invitation of Jesus Christ.

Around this Table, we gather ... awed by Christ's example, remembering Christ's sacrifice, confessing our role in Christ's continuing sufferings. Around this Table, we gather ... confident in Christ's acceptance, humbled by Christ's forgiveness, encouraged to share Christ's love in our times. Around this Table we gather ... mindful of those who have no table, joined to those who are suffering from hunger, persecution, disease; from warfare, abuse, or domestic violence; from loneliness, isolation, confusion or fear, around this Table we gather as the Body of Christ.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanks

We Go Out to Serve

Hymn 462 *I Love to Tell the Story

***Benediction**

Benediction Response *Freely, Freely

Owens

***Postlude**

*Those who are able, please stand as directed at the items marked with an asterisk

Rev. Gavin D. Meek is our **Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk** of **New Harmony Presbytery** which consists of 59 churches in 12 counties in the northeast corner of South Carolina. He has served in ordained ministry in the PCUSA for 35 years, 24 of those years in interim/transitional ministry, serving one other presbytery and eight congregations of various sizes in seven states. After graduating from the Presbytery Leader Formation program in 2018, he was chosen by his peers to be one of seven faculty in the program which trains new PCUSA presbytery leaders. Gavin and his wife, Jennifer (Jen) Kottler, who is the Supply Pastor of our John Calvin congregation, are avid travelers; Gavin has been to 49 states and over 60 countries and enjoys reading biographies, all things Scottish (his mother was born and raised in Scotland and Gavin has been there over a dozen times visiting family and leading tours), hiking, tennis and good food, good wine and a wee dram with friends.

The Church This Week (9/10/2023)

Today	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Mon.	8:30 a.m.	MMO
Wed.	8:30 a.m.	MMO
	3:00 p.m.	Fun Program
	5:30 p.m.	Spaghetti Supper
	6:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship

Prayer List as of September 10, 2023

Gerry & Bobby Rogers
 Ina Coggeshall
 Atha Lou Gibson
 Gray & Bea Sloop
 Bennie and Benny Lou Moore
 Beth O'Neal
 Bobbie Jones
 Keller Smith
 Gene Brymer

The elders have called for a CONGREGATIONAL MEETING during worship on Sunday, September 17, for the purpose of forming a new Officer Nominating Committee. Two current elders, Dan Tillman and Cathy Chapman, and one Presbyterian Women representative, Becky Childers, will be on the Committee, according to church policy. The congregation will be asked to vote for Cam Beck and Richard Pierce as the two at-large representatives to the ONC. All active members present in worship on the 17th are entitled to vote at the congregational meeting.

Dr. Sansbury returns from vacation and will join the congregation at the spaghetti supper on Wednesday. Please read Joshua 1 for next Sunday.

God of Grace and God of Glory

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power; crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore. Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

There Is Now a New Creation

There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ, Peace and reconciliation with the God of endless life.

There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ. Sing, with thanks and adoration, to the God of endless life!

I Love to Tell the Story

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, Of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true; It satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.

Refrain

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest. And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

Refrain