



A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

September 26, 2021

11:00am

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PEACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

301 Guinness Drive ▪ Winterville, North Carolina 28590-9943 ▪ (252) 355-2273

www.peacepresbyterian.org

Grow in Grace, Live in Peace, Serve the Lord

We Gather as God's People

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

PRELUDE

Preludes Bk1 No 8 - The Girl with the Flaxen Hair

Claude Debussy

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 32: 1,2,11

Lucy Freeman, liturgist

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice. Shout for joy all you upright in heart.

*HYMN #370

This Is My Father's World

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees of skies and seas, his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world. O, let me ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet. This is my Father's world. The battle is not done: Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting the grace promised to us in Jesus Christ, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your ways. Like the prodigal son, we have wasted our inheritance. You gave us the earth for our home, but we squander earth's resources and hoard our wealth. You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions. Like the elder son, we seek our own positions of superiority power. Lacking humility, we pass judgment on others. You gave us the commandments that lead to human joy, community and dignity for all people, but we break your law and forsake your love. Forgive our sin and self-righteousness. Draw our wandering hearts back to you that we may find freedom in obedience to your love. Hear now our silent confessions.

(Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

As a parent welcomes home a wayward or self-righteous child, so God embraces all who turn around in true repentance. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S FORGIVENESS There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea. There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty. There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

We Share God's Word

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15: 11-32

SERMON

**"A Father's Love"
Practicing Humility**

Reverend Debbie Osterhoudt

We Respond to God's Word

SPECIAL MUSIC

**Jesus, I Come
Megan Elliott, soprano**

George Coles Stebbins

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

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.

OFFERING

Offertory

Offertory Music

Largo

G. F. Handel

***Doxology No. 606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

PRAYER 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.

We Go Forth As God's People

*HYMN #418

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me. See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me. "Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home." Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"

O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. "Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home!" Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

May the Love of the Lord

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May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.
May God's love dwell in you, throughout every day.
May God's countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May God's Spirit be upon you as you leave this place.

POSTLUDE

Sonatina in G major, Op 36 No 2. 3. Allegro

M. Clementi

***You are invited to stand.**

Worship Leadership Reverend Debbie Osterhoudt, Preacher Lucy Freeman, Liturgist
Peggy Vaughan, Music Director John Holter, piano Chancel Choir Ron Skinner, audio and video
Ushers: Ruth Hines, Janet Johnson, Joanne Lang, Carla Smith Worship Ministry Team Chair, Joanne Lang

WORSHIP NOTES Based on CDC data and the rise in COVID 19 infection rate in our county and state, we are **requiring** that all people wear masks during worship. Masks will be available at the welcome table. We are also delaying the re-opening/re-start of other activities for the time being and we will re-evaluate during our October Session meeting.