

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

15th Sunday After Pentecost

September 13, 2020

Gathering

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" Arr. J. Bennett & C. Berry
© Word Music

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

MINUTE FOR MISSION

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of God.

Let us remember God's marvelous words.

Surely God has saved us in difficult times.

How can we forget God's guiding hand?

When evil surrounds us and we have been wronged,
God helps us turn the evil to good.

We need not be afraid whatever happens.

We are in God's care wherever we go.

Sing the praises of God, our strength.

Know that God is majestic and holy.

How great is God's mercy for all who worship!

We sense among us God's kindness and patience.

Let us worship God!

*OPENING HYMN "How Lovely, Lord" (Psalm 84) Tune: MERLE'S TUNE

**How lovely, Lord, how lovely is your abiding place;
my soul is longing, fainting, to feast upon your grace.
The sparrow finds a shelter, a place to build her nest;
and so your temple calls us within its walls to rest.**

**In your blest courts to worship, O God, a single day
is better than a thousand if I from you should stray.
I'd rather keep the entrance and claim you as my Lord
than revel in the riches the ways of sin afford.**

**A sun and shield forever are you, O Lord Most High;
you shower us with blessings; no good will you deny.
The saints, your grace receiving, from strength to strength shall go,
and from their life shall rivers of blessing overflow.**

Arlo Duba, 1984. © 1986 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted under OneLicense #A-743832

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*CALL TO and PAYER OF CONFESSION

Singing:

Tune: ST. AGNES

***“Forgive our sins as we forgive,” you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.***

***How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?***

Speaking:

We are mindful that each time we come into your presence how willing you are to forgive seventy times seven. Yet when people betray us we bear grudges and think ill of them. We are quick to anger when we feel we’ve been wronged. We do not hasten to seek reconciliation even when we would rather things were less stressful and tense. Forgive us when we hesitate to emulate your example and help us to seek the peace Christ taught us to practice.

Singing

***Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease.
Than, by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.***

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(A time for personal confession) Let All God’s people say: **Amen**

*ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Listening to the Word

HYMN and PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

“Break Thou the Bread of Life”

Tune: BREAD OF LIFE

**Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as thou didst break the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page I seek thee, Lord.
My spirit pants for thee, O living Word!**

Mary Ann Lathbury, 1877. Public Domain

EPISTLE

Romans 14:1-12 The Message

Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don’t see things the way you do. And don’t jump all over them every time they do or say something you don’t agree with—even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently. ²⁻⁴For instance, a person who has been around for a while might well be convinced that he can eat anything on the table, while another, with a different background,

might assume he should only be a vegetarian and eat accordingly. But since both are guests at Christ's table, wouldn't it be terribly rude if they fell to criticizing what the other ate or didn't eat? God, after all, invited them both to the table. Do you have any business crossing people off the guest list or interfering with God's welcome? If there are corrections to be made or manners to be learned, God can handle that without your help.

⁵ Or, say, one person thinks that some days should be set aside as holy and another thinks that each day is pretty much like any other. There are good reasons either . So, each person is free to follow the convictions of conscience.

⁶⁻⁹ What's important in all this is that if you keep a holy day, keep it for *God's* sake; if you eat meat, eat it to the glory of God and thank God for prime rib; if you're a vegetarian, eat vegetables to the glory of God and thank God for broccoli. None of us are permitted to insist on our own way in these matters. It's *God* we are answerable to—all the way from life to death and everything in between—not each other. That's why Jesus lived and died and then lived again: so that he could be our Master across the entire range of life and death, and free us from the petty tyrannies of each other.

¹⁰⁻¹² So where does that leave you when you criticize a brother? And where does that leave you when you condescend to a sister? I'd say it leaves you looking pretty silly—or worse. Eventually, we're all going to end up kneeling side by side in the place of judgment, facing God. Your critical and condescending ways aren't going to improve your position there one bit. Read it for yourself in Scripture:

“As I live and breathe,” God says, “every knee will bow before me; Every tongue will tell the honest truth that I and only I am God.”

So tend to your knitting. You've got your hands full just taking care of your own life before God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35 NRSV

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and

pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"How many times??"

Jim Musgrave

Responding to God

*AFFIRMATION

Col 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

*HYMN

"Come and Fill Our Hearts"

Tune: CONFITEMINI DOMINO

Soloist sings; all repeat twice

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!

Jacques Berthier, 1982. © Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

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PASTORAL PRAYER/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

Going Forth to Serve

BENEDICTION

*HYMN

“Go with Us, Lord”

Tune: TALLIS' CANON

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way though this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.**

Mary Jackson Cathey, 1986. © Hope Publishing Co. Reprinted under OneLicense #A-743832

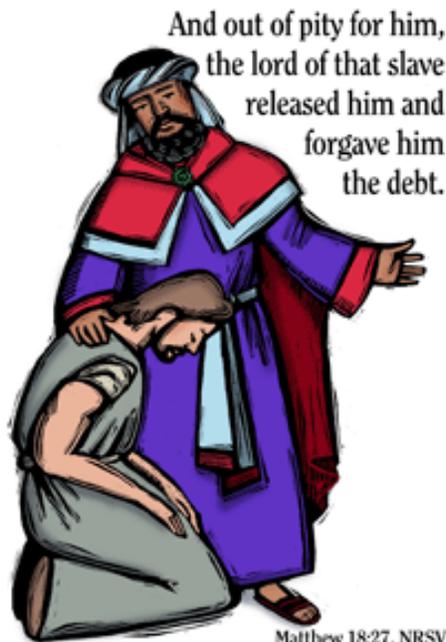
*WORDS OF DISMISSAL

As God's own, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, and patience,
forgiving one another as the Lord has forgiven you, and crown all these things with
love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

*POSTLUDE

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Church Notes

MEMBERS WISHING TO BLESS RLPC'S MINISTRY FINANCIALLY

With the fact that we are not coming together for worship, many of you who have generously given to the ministry of RLPC may want to continue your gifts to the church. There are several ways that you may donate a gift to the church. By logging onto the church website at www.rlpc.org you can give through PayPal. Also, there is a mailbox outside the choir room where you can drop your offering or send it by mail. A prayer of dedication will be included in the Prayers of the People. Thank you for your support of our missions.

RESPONSIVE READER

Would you like to be a responsive reader during a recorded worship service? We can use one or two people from the same household. Only your voice is recorded and singing is optional. Please call (304 768-4141) or email the church office (rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com) if you are interested.

CLOSED CAPTIONING FOR SUNDAY SERVICE

We hope that you are enjoying the Sunday worship service on YouTube and wanted to share a special feature noticed by Ann Rinehart. At the bottom of the picture, there is a scroll bar with a small box with cc in it. If you click this, you will get Closed Caption. Also, if there is music, it prints MUSIC and otherwise shows words to the music. Some words are missed but most are recorded.

RLPC ZOOM AUGUST POTLUCK LUNCHEON



You are invited to join us today at noon for our September Potluck. (Please see previous emails from this week on how to connect.)

Last month we had small, lively group who enjoyed talking and sharing virtually during the luncheon.

Prayer List

To add/remove/correct names on the prayer list,
please call the church office (768-4141) or email rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com

Let me start with joys this week!! A great JOY in fact, a Great, Great Joy – Juanita Hefner’s great grandchild gave birth to Juanita’s great-great grandchild – a little girl named Charlie Jean Burdette –Congratulations Juanita!!! Also, this week, we celebrate with the Wagner clan as their granddaughter Stephanie and her husband Beau Wilson gave birth to Bill and Mary’s great grandson – and Elaine and Stacy Wagner’s grandson – a little boy named William Cameron Wilson – Congratulations Wagner clan!!!

We wish to send prayers to the people in California and the Pacific Northwest affected by the California wildfires. Pam Ferrell has family that lives in the area where the wildfires are occurring. We also continue to pray for those who sustained damage from Hurricane Laura.

Prayers for Concerns – Our friends and neighbors and their families

Merrily Bailey	Bogan “Danny” Gumowski	Joy Ratcliff
Emily Baker	Margie Gumowski	Sarah Shaver
Jack Binning	Tracey Hall	Garin Stanford
Day and Gene Bishop	Brad Harkins	Bill Wagner
Jo and Dick Clark	Addilyn Hardin	Family of Anne Copper on the occasion of her death
Amiel Cooper	Tre’ Hardin	Family of Kim LaCount on the occasion of her mother’s death, Ruth Gordon*
Jeff Copper	Juanita Hefner	
Tim Copper	Landry Holden	
Mary Anne Estill	Jim Johnson	
Tory Fenniger	Derek Lathey	
Ashley Fornash	Cheryl Morgan	
Lee Ann Goff	Ruth Pritchard	

Prayers for our Military

Brett Baker	Brent Bishop	Evan Chaney
Jeff Barker	Steve Cash	

All who are serving, who have been injured and the families who have lost someone in combat; those who live and serve on the Korean Peninsula and other nations in that region of the world; our troops facing terrorist attacks.

Prayers for those in Senior Residential Centers - Cliff Asbury, Kanawha Place; Betty Berry, Edgewood Summit; Barbara Shriver, Sweetbriar

Prayers for those at home - Reva Asbury, Jeanette Bates, Bonnie Cheely, Mary Jane Hamrick, Anita McCormick, Anita Wehrmann

*Added to Prayer List this week

Prayers for Pollen8 in their ministry for drug addiction.

Prayer List for Churches Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church, Elkins; Highlawn Presbyterian Church, Huntington; Thegenge Parish (They-GEN’gay)