

# First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville



July 25, 2021

Worship 10:00 am


[www.fpcmartinsville.org](http://www.fpcmartinsville.org)



# The Worship of God

## Nineth Sunday after Pentecost

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### Gathering

#### The Call of the Carillon

May the carillon bells call us to gather in the sanctuary, entering into a time of silent preparation to encounter the Living God.

#### Prelude

*Christ the Life of All the Living*

Anton Wilhelm Leopold

### Preparing to Hear the Word

#### Welcome

Rev. John Erickson

#### Opening Prayer

#### Call to Worship - based on Psalm 34:1-8

Eric Hooker

We will bless the Lord at all times,

**God's praise is always on our lips;  
in the Lord our souls shall make their boast.**

The humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with us.

Together let us praise God's name.

**We sought the Lord and were heard,  
from all our terrors set free.**

Look toward God and be radiant;

let your faces not be ashamed.

When the poor cry out, the Lord hears them  
and rescues them from all their distress.

**Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
They are happy who seek refuge in God.**

#### ♦ Hymn of Praise

*O Sing a Song of Bethlehem*

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#### Call to Confession - based on 1 John 1:8-9, NRSV

God's Word assures us:

If we say that we have no sin,

we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins  
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

## Prayer of Confession

O God, you have shown us the way of life through your Son, Jesus Christ.  
We confess with shame our slowness to learn of him,  
our failure to follow him, and our reluctance to bear the cross.

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.**

We confess the poverty of our worship,  
our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace,  
our hesitating witness for Christ,  
our evasion of responsibilities in our service,  
our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us. Amen.**

## Silent Prayer

### Kyrie

Lord\_ have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy on us.

WORDS: Kyrie eleison  
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1982

DOMINE DEUS

## Assurance of Pardon - Romans 5:8; Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 5:1, NIV

God demonstrates his own love for us in this:  
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.  
For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,  
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.  
Therefore, since we have been justified through faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

### ♦ *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.

### ♦ **Passing of the Peace**

## The Word

### Prayer for Illumination

Eric Hooker

### First Scripture Reading

Psalm 145: 10-18

Pew Bible: OT p. 549

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Anthem

### Children's Message

Marge Lake

### Second Scripture Reading

John 6: 1-21

Pew Bible: NT p. 91

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

Rev. John Erickson

## Responding to the Word

### ♦ Affirmation of Faith ~ The Apostles' Creed (Ecumenical)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended to the dead; On the third day he rose again;  
He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church,  
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### ♦ Hymn of Response

*Lord, I Want to Be A Christian*

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### Call for the Offering

### Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

## Sending

### ♦ Hymn of Dedication

*Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*

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### Benediction

### Benediction Response

*Lead Me Lord*

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy right-eous-ness, make Thy way plain be - fore my face.

For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord, On - ly that mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

LEAD ME, LORD

WORDS: Psalms 5:8, 4:8  
MUSIC: Samuel S. Wesley, 1861

### Postlude

*Magnificat*

Samuel Scheidt

*(During the postlude, you are invited to remain seated or to quietly make your way to Assembly Hall, allowing others to continue their worship.)*

### ♦ All who are able, please stand

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Rev. John Erickson, Pastor  
Kira Garvie, Music Director / Organist

## **MUSIC NOTES**

**JULY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**

The prelude music today is not what is listed in the bulletin – I am in the middle of a cross-town move in Bloomington, and I realized this week that I already packed the score where the prelude is found, and I couldn't remember which box it is in! So, I have this short and sweet prelude on “Simple Gifts.” I knew this song growing up to the words “’Tis a Gift to be Simple,” which are as follows:

*'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free  
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,  
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,  
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.  
When true simplicity is gained,  
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,  
To turn, turn will be our delight,  
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right.*

Those words are actually the original words associated with the tune, a traditional song from the Shaker Christian tradition. The Shakers were a sect of peaceful, celibate, egalitarian Christians who lived in farming communities where their emphasis was on living each moment and doing each task as a realization of the peaceful teachings of Christ. They fully believed in an equal, Utopian society, which was governed by both men and women at each level of their social structure. “The Shakers represent a small but important Utopian response to the gospel. Preaching in their communities knew no boundaries of gender, social class, or education.”

Enthusiastic singing and dancing was a part of their regular worship services. The tune Simple Gifts would have been sung at such services, although it was relatively unknown outside the Shaker communities until Aaron Copeland used the melody in the score for the ballet *Appalachian Spring*, in 1944. (The Appalachian Mountains extend up through New England, where the Shakers originated.) In 1963 an English songwriter, Sydney Carter, adapted the tune and lyrics as the “Lord of the Dance” version in our hymnals. The tune has since been adapted many times; for wind band, in movies, for commercials, and in popular music. I would argue that next to Amazing Grace it is one of the most recognizable American melodies out there! Not to mention it is simply beautiful.

The first Shaker settlement in America was in Watervliet, NY, which is only 45 minutes from where I grew up. There are many other settlements that are now museums in Pittsfield, MA, and Hancock, MA, all close to where my parents live. The Shakers were famous for their handcrafts and especially their furniture, believing that making something well was “an act of prayer.” Because of their celibacy and almost monastic life, the Shaker tradition has almost completely died out: as of 2018 there were only three living Shakers in a community in Maine.

