

 *Open doors, open hearts, a welcome for all just as you are!*

 **World Communion Sunday October 1, 2023 11:00**

**PRELUDE** Rosa Marsh

**WELCOME**  Janet DeWater

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Today, on this World Communion Sunday, we gather as God’s people, both near and far.

**We are the whole people of God.**

Though we are a grand array of language, custom and tradition,

**we are brothers and sisters in Christ.**

In joy, unity, and faith,

**we come to worship God!**

**\*HYMN #**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, we confess that the world suffers because of our sin. We use power against others for our own benefit. We misuse the natural resources of the earth. By our habits and apathies, others are subjected to desolation. Forgive us for making enemies and exiles of those you call us to love and serve. We wait on you, O God. We hope in you. You alone can restore all things, even us. We pray in the name of Christ, who extends your grace, and calls us to walk in the ways of peace. )*Please pause for a moment of silent prayer…amen.)*

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

God, in Christ Jesus, grants us mercy and peace and the gifts of forgiveness and new life.

**With gratitude we receive this gift of grace. Thanks be to God!**

**\*SONG OF RESPONSE #**

**TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Children: The Peace of Christ be with you. **Congregation: And also with you.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**  Josh Kalinowski

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**  Psalm 25:4-9

 Philippians 2:1-13

**SERMON**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *Iona Abbey Worship*

We believe and trust in God who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus – the Word made flesh – to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others by the power of the Spirit. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect for creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and hope. In life and death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

**\*HYMN #**

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**Invitation** – All are welcome at this table

**The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Sung Response #595** Sung first in English, then in Spanish

**Prayer After Communion**

Gracious God, we offer our thanks for the communion of the saints and for the ministry of churches around the world who gather today. By this shared bread and cup may we be united as children of your promise, sent boldly together into the world as servants of your peace. Amen.

**THE OFFERING** *Today we receive the PCUSA special offering for* ***“Peace and Global Witness.”*** *Offering envelopes are in the pew racks or you may make note of this designation on your check.*

 **Offertory**

**\*Doxology #606**

**\*Offertory Prayer**

Holy God, we are thankful for your grace to us in Jesus Christ, for your gift of the church and its global witness, and for the capacity to give. May these gifts help prepare the way of peace in our community and around the world. Amen.

**\*HYMN #**

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*RESPONSE #**

**\*POSTLUDE**

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\*Please rise in body or in spirit

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**A warm welcome to all this morning!** If you are visiting a special welcome to you! We hope you find the worship service to be a blessing. We invite you to fill out the visitor card located in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate. We would love to get better acquainted, and we invite your participation in the worship, fellowship and mission of this church. If you wish to connect with the pastor please email Janet at jdewater@fpcmountholly.com

**A special welcome** to our soloist, Rosa Marsh.

**Children are always welcome in worship, wiggles, giggles and all!** We value their presence with us as we worship God, knowing that this is how they experience the loving community of Christ and how they learn to worship. We have a **“Worship and Play”** room available downstairs for children, and the service is streamed down there as well.

**The Offering** -The offering to support our ministry and mission is

Gratefully received during the offertory, or your contributions can be

made by using the provided QR code or the Paypal option available

on the church website: fpcmountholly.com Thank you.

**Pumpkin Patch/Faith & Blue!** On Saturday, Oct. 7, 2:00- 4:00 our patch will be part of Mount Holly’s “Faith and Blue” weekend events. Mount Holly police officers will be at the patch to greet folks, and we will have a table up for pumpkin painting!

**“Cider in the Pumpkin Patch”** – Join us on the lawn today after worship to enjoy a Fall beverage and good fellowship!

**CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

Sunday School Opportunities:

**Children and Youth** meet from 10:00 – 10:45 in the Fellowship Hall and Activity Room in the Christian Education/Office Building.

**The Sojourner Adult Class** meets from 10:00 – 10:45 in the lounge on the lower sanctuary level and is currently reading and discussing the book: *Heaven is for Real.*

**The Friendship Adult Class** meets from 10:00 – 10:45 in the classroom on the lower sanctuary level and follows *The Present Word* Bible Study curriculum.

**All are welcome to join any class, any time!**

 **CHURCH STAFF**

 Pastor Janet DeWater

 Administrative Assistant Sarah Oedy

 Director of Music James O’Dell

 Music Worship Leader Jonathan Brackett

 Treasurer Stefanie Faith

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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