

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 29, 2024**

\*This service is being livestreamed Prelude through Postlude, and is available for public viewing.

*Meditation*

*"In the end, I believe that the real blessing is to be seen and loved for who we are."  
~ Barbara Brown Taylor*

**PRELUDE**

Ben Marti

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Eric Garner

**CHORAL INTROIT**

Ben Marti and Dr. Andrew Kendall

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Psalm 18:1-3, 28, 31-33

Pastor Eric Garner

I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer.

**My God is my rock in whom I take refuge; my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**

I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved. For who is God except the Lord? And who is a rock besides our God?

**God has girded me with strength, and made my way safe.**

God made my feet like the feet of a deer, and set me secure on the heights.

**It is you who light my lamp; the Lord, my God, lights up my darkness.**

**HYMN**

*Here in This Place*

GTG 401

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Pastor Eric Garner

**Glorious Lord,  
You are the one who leads us from darkness into light,  
From captivity into freedom,  
From anxiety into peace,  
From despair into joy.  
Yet we long to break free,  
Choosing independence,  
Convinced of our own wisdom,  
Forgetting your love and grace.  
Forgive us,  
Draw close to us,  
Embrace us once again in your loving arms,  
And enable us to follow you in worship and grateful service  
Each day of our lives.  
Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYER**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor Eric Garner

The Lord is God. The Lord brings light to those in darkness, forgiveness to those who truly confess, and pardon to all who seek to follow Jesus. Rejoice that the steadfast love of the Lord endures for ever and ever. In the name of Jesus the Christ, receive the love that never dies and never fails.

In the name of Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

**GLORIA**

*Gloria*

GTG 581

Musical score for Gloria, featuring piano accompaniment and vocal lines. The score is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men."

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

Ben Marti and Dr. Andrew Kendall

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor Eric Garner

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

Lizz Kendall

**SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

GTG 288

Musical score for Sung Prayer for Illumination, featuring piano accompaniment and vocal lines. The score is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me."

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Mark 3:7-12

Deb Kienholz

**7** Jesus departed with his disciples to the sea, and a great multitude from Galilee followed him; **8** hearing all that he was doing, they came to him in great numbers from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond the Jordan, and the region around Tyre and Sidon. **9** He told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, so that they would not crush him, **10** for he had cured many, so that all who had diseases pressed upon him to touch him. **11** Whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and shouted, "You are the Son of God!" **12** But he sternly ordered them not to make him known.

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

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Genesis 27:30-28:9

Pastor Eric Garner

**30** As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, when Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of his father Isaac, his brother Esau came in from his hunting. **31** He also prepared savory food and brought it to his father. And he said to his father, "Let my father sit up and eat of his son's game, so that you may bless me." **32** His father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" He answered, "I am your firstborn son, Esau." **33** Then Isaac trembled violently and said, "Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me, and I ate it all before you came, and I have blessed him?—yes, and blessed he shall be!" **34** When Esau heard his father's words, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me, me also, father!" **35** But he said, "Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing." **36** Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and look, now he has taken away my blessing." Then he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?" **37** Isaac answered Esau, "I have already made him your lord, and I have given him all his brothers as servants, and with grain and wine I have sustained him. What then can I do for you, my son?" **38** Esau said to his father, "Have you only one blessing, father? Bless me, me also, father!" And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

**39** Then his father Isaac answered him:

"See, away from the fatness of the earth shall your home be  
and away from the dew of heaven on high.

**40** By your sword you shall live,  
and you shall serve your brother,  
but when you break loose,  
you shall break his yoke from your neck."

Jacob Escapes Esau's Fury

**41** Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob." **42** But the words of her elder son Esau were told to Rebekah, so she sent and called her younger son Jacob and said to him, "Your brother Esau is consoling himself by planning to kill you. **43** Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; flee at once to my brother Laban in Haran, **44** and stay with him a while, until your brother's fury turns away— **45** until your brother's anger against you turns away, and he forgets what you have done to him; then I will send and bring you back from there. Why should I lose both of you in one day?"

**46** Then Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am weary of my life because of the Hittite women. If Jacob marries one of the Hittite women such as these, one of the women of the land, what good will my life be to me?"

**1** Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and charged him, "You shall not marry one of the Canaanite women. **2** Go at once to Paddan-aram to the house of Bethuel, your mother's father, and take as wife from there one of the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother. **3** May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and numerous, that you may become a company of peoples. **4** May he give to you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your offspring with you, so that you may take possession of the land where you now live as an alien, land that God gave to Abraham." **5** Thus Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Paddan-aram, to Laban son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother.

6 Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram to take a wife from there and that as he blessed him he charged him, "You shall not marry one of the Canaanite women," 7 and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and gone to Paddan-aram. 8 So when Esau saw that the Canaanite women did not please his father Isaac, 9 Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath daughter of Abraham's son Ishmael and sister of Nebaioth to be his wife in addition to the wives he had.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*A Pyrrhic Blessing*

Pastor Eric Garner

HYMN

*Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak*

GTG 722

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Eric Garner

**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.**

CALL FOR OFFERING AND DOXOLOGY

GTG 607

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all peo-ple here be - low; praise

Ho-ly Spir-it ev - er - more; praise Tri-une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Pastor Eric Garner

POSTLUDE

Ben Marti



*Thank you FPC Deacons, for sponsoring this Sunday's worship!*

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