

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

**October 6, 2024**

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

*Meditation*

*“Reconciliation is not just about making peace; it’s about creating relationships that reflect God’s love.”*

*~ Marva Dawn*

**PRELUDE**

Ben Marti

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Eric Garner

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

Pastor Eric Garner

For everyone in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

**All this is from God, who reconciled us to Godself through Christ, and given us the ministry of reconciliation.**

In Christ God was reconciling the world to Godself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

**So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making this appeal through us.**

**HYMN**

*How Firm a Foundation*

GTG 463

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Pastor Eric Garner

**Merciful God,  
In your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world.  
Although Christ is among us as our peace,  
We are a people divided against ourselves  
As we cling to the values of a broken world.  
The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste to your good creation.  
The fears and jealousies that we harbor  
Set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation.  
Lord have mercy upon us;  
Heal and forgive us.  
Set us free to serve you in the world  
As agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYER**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor Eric Garner

Christ meets our every need, both feeding us with the bread of life and restoring us to right relationship with God. Know that in him, you have been forgiven.

## 463

## How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,  
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,  
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!  
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;  
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;  
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,  
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,  
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign  
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.  
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.  
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.

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

**GLORIA**

*Gloria*

GTG 581

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.

**SUNG PSALM**

*Where Armies Scourge the Countryside*

GTG 344

O God of mer - cy, hear our prayer. Bring peace to earth a - gain!

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor Eric Garner

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

Noa Malone

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.

**SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

GTG 288

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Romans 9:6-15

Suellen Lloyd

**6** It is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all those descended from Israel are Israelites, **7** and not all of Abraham's children are his descendants, but "it is through Isaac that descendants shall be named for you." **8** This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as descendants. **9** For the word of the promise is this: "About this time I will return, and Sarah shall have a son." **10** Nor is that all; something similar happened to Rebecca when she had conceived children by one husband, our ancestor Isaac: **11** even before they had been born or had done anything good or bad (so that God's purpose of election might continue, **12** not by works but by his call) she was told, "The elder shall serve the younger." **13** As it is written, "I have loved Jacob, but I have hated Esau."

**14** What then are we to say? Is there injustice on God’s part? By no means! **15** For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

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

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Genesis 33:1-20

Pastor Eric Garner

**1** Now Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two maids. **2** He put the maids with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. **3** He himself went on ahead of them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near his brother.

**4** But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. **5** When Esau looked up and saw the women and children, he said, “Who are these with you?” Jacob said, “The children whom God has graciously given your servant.” **6** Then the maids drew near, they and their children, and bowed down; **7** Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down; and finally Joseph and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down. **8** Esau said, “What do you mean by all this company that I met?” Jacob answered, “To find favor with my lord.” **9** But Esau said, “I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself.” **10** Jacob said, “No, please; if I find favor with you, then accept my present from my hand, for truly to see your face is like seeing the face of God, since you have received me with such favor. **11** Please accept my gift that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me and because I have everything I want.” So he urged him, and he took it.

**12** Then Esau said, “Let us journey on our way, and I will go alongside you.” **13** But Jacob said to him, “My lord knows that the children are frail and that the flocks and herds, which are nursing, are a care to me, and if they are overdriven for one day, all the flocks will die. **14** Let my lord pass on ahead of his servant, and I will lead on slowly, according to the pace of the cattle that are before me and according to the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir.”

**15** So Esau said, “Let me leave with you some of the people who are with me.” But he said, “Why should my lord be so kind to me?” **16** So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir. **17** But Jacob journeyed to Succoth and built himself a house and made booths for his cattle; therefore the place is called Succoth.

**18** Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, on his way from Paddan-aram, and he camped before the city. **19** And from the sons of Hamor, Shechem’s father, he bought for one hundred pieces of money the plot of land on which he had pitched his tent. **20** There he erected an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel.

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

**SERMON**

*A Possible Reconciliation*

Pastor Eric Garner

**HYMN**

*In Christ There Is No East or West*

GTG 318

**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.**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Pastor Eric Garner

## In Christ There Is No East or West 318

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in  
 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their  
 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -  
 4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in

him no south or north, but one great fel - low -  
 high com - mu - nion find; his ser - vice is the  
 e'er your race may be. All chil - dren of the  
 him meet south and north. All Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.  
 gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.  
 liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.  
 one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

This text formed a very small part of an elaborate Christian missionary pageant in the early 20th century, yet it has endured while the grander aspects of that production have faded away. It is set to a simple 19th-century tune that does not get in the way of its message.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 Maker of heaven and earth,  
 and in Jesus Christ his only son, Our Lord;  
 Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost  
 born of the Virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, dead, and buried;  
 he descended to the dead;  
 the third day he rose again from the dead;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 and sitteth on the right hand  
 of God the Father Almighty;  
 from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
 the holy catholic church;  
 the communion of saints;  
 the forgiveness of sins;  
 the resurrection of the body;  
 and the life everlasting. Amen**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Pastor Eric Garner

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.

The image shows a musical score for piano accompaniment. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble and bass staff with lyrics: "Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all peo-ple here be - low; praise". The second system also has a treble and bass staff with lyrics: "Ho-ly Spir-it ev - er - more; praise Tri-une God, whom we a - dore. A - men." The music is in G major and 4/4 time.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Pastor Eric Garner

POSTLUDE

Ben Marti



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

*If you are interested sponsoring the Sunday worship flowers, please sign up on the FPC website, or call the church office and we'd be glad to help get you signed up!*