

PIONEER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 – 9:00 A.M.

GUEST MINISTER: REV. CRAIG MANSUR

MUSICIAN: JOHN WILLS - LITURGIST: CINDY BAILEY

(* Indicates to please stand if you are able)

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION

OPENING PRAYER

O God, your Wisdom speaks in our streets, cries out from our intersections, and calls our names. Wisdom hopes we will stop ... listen ... and learn. Wisdom beseeches us to turn our faces and our ears to you. Wisdom urges us to bless your name with our speaking ... and our silence. May we speak and bless your name, O God, now and always. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The heavens are telling the glory of God.

The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

Day pours forth speech,

and night declares knowledge of our God.

God's wisdom is written in the stars.

It is seen and heard to the ends of the earth.

When we see God's teachings in the clouds,

or hear them in the symphonies of the birds,

our minds are enriched,

our eyes are enlightened,

our souls are revived,

and our hearts rejoice.

Then we shall bless God's name with our words,

and with the silence between them.

*OPENING HYMN

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

No. 404

RENEWING GOD'S COVENANT

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Lord is near to the broken hearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Let us admit our brokenness to God.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we long for you— for your love, for your wisdom, for your grace. We long for the words of your mouth, when we cannot find our own. We long for the courage to speak and sing your blessings. We pray for the wisdom to keep silent, rather than speak words of harm. Be our vision, O God, and our voice. And may our mouths proclaim your praise. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

When we are too afraid to speak the truth, Christ will speak it with us and even through us, until it is heard and known. Even when we lose ourselves or our way, Christ will give it back to us, saving us again and again. Amen.

*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.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE (by remaining in place and waiving to one another) *Stand if you are able.* The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

HYMN

"Speak, Oh Lord"

(Projected Hymn)

ENGAGING WITH GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING

James 3:1-12

My brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers, because we know that we teachers will be judged more strictly. We all make mistakes often, but those who don't make mistakes with their words have reached full maturity. Like a bridled horse, they can control themselves entirely. When we bridle horses and put bits in their mouths to lead them wherever we want, we can control their whole bodies.

Consider ships: They are so large that strong winds are needed to drive them. But pilots direct their ships wherever they want with a little rudder. In the same way, even though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts wildly.

Think about this: A small flame can set a whole forest on fire. The tongue is a small flame of fire, a world of evil at work in us. It contaminates our entire lives. Because of it, the circle of life is set on fire. The tongue itself is set on fire by the flames of hell.

People can tame and already have tamed every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish. No one can tame the tongue, though. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

With it we both bless the Lord and Father and curse human beings made in God's likeness. Blessing and cursing come from the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, it just shouldn't be this way!

Both fresh water and salt water don't come from the same spring, do they? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree produce olives? Can a grapevine produce figs? Of course not, and fresh water doesn't flow from a saltwater spring either.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

No. 388

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Mark 8:27-38

Jesus and his disciples went into the villages near Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"

They told him, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others one of the prophets."

He asked them, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Christ." Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: "The Human One^[a] must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead." He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him. Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: "Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts."

After calling the crowd together with his disciples, Jesus said to them, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Human One^[a] will be ashamed of that person when he comes in the Father's glory with the holy angels."

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Apostles' Creed – Page 14

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 GOD'S TITHE AND OUR OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY (No. 591 in hymnal)

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

BEING SENT TO LIVE IN GOD'S NAME

*SENDING HYMN

:Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

No. 387

BENEDICTION

People of God, go into the world and speak God's blessing and God's grace in word and action. Amen.

POSTLUDE

PIONEER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023 – 9:00 A.M.

MINISTER: REV. CRAIG ALWIN

ORGANIST: [NAME HERE] - LITURGIST: [NAME HERE]

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, we yearn to draw near as we arrive in this place. We come to calm our hearts, soothe our fears, and deepen our faith. As the Samaritan woman before us, help us draw cool water from the well of your love, and help us leave with the living water of belief, through the power of your Holy Spirit.

** CALL TO WORSHIP*

Worship the Lord and sing God's praises.

We come into the Lord's presence with songs of thanksgiving.

Make a joyful noise for the rock of our salvation.

We rejoice in our time together.

Drink of Christ's living water.

We thirst for God's love!

** OPENING HYMN*

RENEWING GOD'S COVENANT

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Giver of Life, we know we have shortcomings. In the depth of our hearts, we struggle to leave our failures behind. Teach us that suffering brings endurance, that endurance produces character, and that character brings hope. With your grace undergirding our lives, grant us the patience and persistence to claim a place in your holy Kin-dom. May

we become your living water in the wilderness of this world, creating space for your hope and faith. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Like the Israelites in the wilderness, and the woman at the well, living water is within reach. We need not thirst for eternal life ever again, for the well of God's blessing is full and God's love is poured out for all.

** IN MY LIFE LORD BE GLORIFIED*

** PASSING OF THE PEACE* (by remaining in place and waiving to one another) *Stand if you are able.*

The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ENGAGING WITH GOD'S WORD

PSALM READING

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

SERMON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – APOSTLES' CREED*

OFFERTORY

**DOXOLOGY*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BEING SENT TO LIVE IN GOD'S NAME

** SENDING HYMN*

BENEDICTION

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you: wherever he may send you; may he guide you through the wilderness: protect you through the storm; may he bring you home rejoicing; at the wonders he has shown you; may he bring you home rejoicing: once again into our doors.

POSTLUDE

Changes for bulletins effective February 2023:

- Include headings for 5 sections of the service
- Use one constant cover – sketch of church building/gather by the river
- No Gloria Patri – use “In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified” instead
- Include an Affirmation of Faith
 - Non-Communion Sunday: Apostles’ Creed (or other?)
 - Communion Sunday: Nicene Creed
- Offering after the sermon
- Doxology after the offering
- Use an asterisk to indicate standing for:
 - Call to Worship
 - Opening Hymn
 - IN MY LIFE LORD BE GLORIFIED
 - Passing of the Peace
 - Affirmation of Faith
 - Doxology
 - Sending Hymn

Elder of the Month needs to find 3 **ushers** for collecting the offering:

- All three gather at rear of church and place all plates together
- One usher brings offering forward during the singing of Doxology
- Pastor offers a prayer of blessing
- Usher sets the plates down next to the pulpit

Liturgist needs to introduce hymns and give “invitation” to stand as able

Musicians need to be reminded of “In My Life...” being sung and Doxology

If the musician is not able to play (such as the Handbells), the **projector volunteer** needs to be reminded to insert an audio recording in the PowerPoint presentation.