

McKEESPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
WORSHIP SERVICE

24th Sunday after Pentecost

November 12, 2023

**THE GATHERING**  
**WE ENTER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

**PRELUDE**

**Faye D'Ippolito, Organist**

**WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP: (Psalm 55 & 8)**

(L) You, O Lord are a great God

**(C) You, O King are above all gods.**

(L) In Your hand are the depths of the earth.

**(C) In Your hand are the heights of the mountains.**

(L) Your hands have formed the sea and all that live in it.

**(C) Your hands have formed the dry land and all that live on it.**

(L) Yet You have chosen to be our God.

**(ALL) and us to be the people of Your pasture!**

**\*HYMN**

**"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" (Vv. 1, 3 & 4)**

**No. 263, blue**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: [Psalm 25]**

God of mercy and steadfast love,

We turn to You, be gracious to us.

We are lonely and afflicted, our hearts are troubled.

Consider our affliction and trouble

and forgive all of our sins, for they are great.

**[Personal Confession]**

To You, our Lord, I lift my soul ...

In You, my God, I trust ...

**\* WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Hear [and see] the Good News. According to God's steadfast LOVE and Mercy, in Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven, once and for all - they are remembered no more!

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**No. 813, brown**

**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.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### JOYS

Leader: "For \_(joy)\_, Gracious God ..."

All "we give you thanks."

### CONCERNS

Leader: "For \_(concern)\_, Merciful Lord ..."

All: "hear our prayer."

*Let's pray together 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*Please contact the church by email or phone with your prayer requests during the week.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Please welcome the children to the front of the sanctuary by singing, "Jesus Loves the Little Children".*

## ANTHEM

"Holy Lord"

Chancel Choir  
Arr. B. Harlan

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 6: 1-8 and Matthew 6: 5-9

### Isaiah 6: 1-8

<sup>1</sup> 'In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said:

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.'

<sup>4</sup> The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!'

<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup> The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' <sup>8</sup> Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

### Matthew 6: 5-9

<sup>5</sup> 'And whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>7</sup> 'When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

<sup>9</sup> 'Pray then in this way:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.**

## SERMON

"PRAYER- First Things First"

Rev. Michael Stanton

## THE RESPONSE

### WE COMMIT TO THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY

Faye D'Ippolito, Organist

\*DOXOLOGY

\*HYMN

"Here I Am, Lord"

No. 525, blue

## THE EXIT

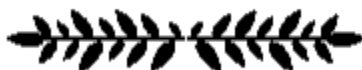
### WE ENGAGE THE WORLD OF GOD

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Faye D'Ippolito, Organist

*\*All those who are able, please stand\**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 12, 2023

#### DEACONS MEETING:

There will be a Deacons meeting at 12:15 today.

#### FELLOWSHIP II:

Please join us for a time of food and fellowship directly after Sunday's service.

**IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE**, please contact the church office.

#### TAKE CARE, THE FLU AND COLD SEASON HAS STARTED:

Please help keep everyone healthy. If you have a cold or flu, please utilize the masks available at the entrances. We all thank you.

#### PER CAPITA:

The 2023 per capita amount is \$35.70 per church member. These funds are sent to the Presbytery and are used by the Presbytery to provide services to local churches. Please make your checks payable to the church and note "per capita" in the memo line.

#### GIVING TREE:

This year the Deacons are asking for your help in making a Christmas special. We have a young mother and 3 children who have lost everything due to a fire. They have been displaced since Spring and are staying with a family temporarily. Giving Tree will be up November 12<sup>th</sup> thru 19<sup>th</sup>, please see a Deacon after church to choose a star or two from the tree. Please return unwrapped gifts along with your star back to the Deacons or church office by November 26<sup>th</sup>. Deacons thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity towards this family.

**PORTABLE GROCERY CARTS:**

We need 2 or 3 portable grocery carts to be use each month for the Food Pantry. If you can donate one or more, please let Carol Lasch know or Robin in the church office, Thank you.

**IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR!**

The nominating committee will be looking for officers to fill positions for Elder and Deacon in the coming weeks. Elders and Deacons play an important role in the church. Elders are part of the Session which governs the church. They lead the congregation in its fellowship (its ministry to one another) and in its mission (its ministry to the world). Elders seek the will of God for the congregation so they can lead it in the direction they believe Jesus would have it go. They seek to model themselves after Jesus as they listen to people and serve the church. Deacons are called to be servants to others. They visit and pray for church members who are sick or bereaved and are bridge-builders between the church and the community. If you feel that you are being called to serve, please reach out to Pastor Michael or the nominating committee. If you are contacted by the committee to serve, please pray to God for guidance! We are always looking for servants.

We are called to work out the meaning of our own lives and to find our true vocation in the love and service of God. In God's service, true freedom it found.

**BASKETS OF KINDNESS:**

The Deacons are preparing our yearly, Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. They collect Giant Eagle gift cards and/or monetary donations to provide for families in need during the holidays. All donations can be given to Luann Castro, Carol Lasch or left at the Church Office with Robin. We are grateful to all of our congregation for all of your heartfelt help.

**LAP BLANKETS:**

Each year at Christmas the Deacons receive donations of lap blankets for the local nursing home and personal care home residents. The residents greatly appreciate the blankets. If you would like to donate a blanket or two, please give to Luann Castro, Carol Lasch, or Robin in the office. We are thankful for all of your support and many blessings.

**MCKEESPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Pastor-Rev. Michael Stanton**

**Director of Music-Edward R. Moore**

**Organists-Candice Holsinger & Millie Kistler**

**Office/Financial Assistant- Robin Enright**

**Maintenance Manager -Brock Cochran**

**412-678-2000**

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