

Presbyterian Church of Easton



Our Purpose is
“To live and love like Christ”

Rev. Alison Halsey.....Worship Leader
Mr. Robert Huntington.....Director of Music
Mrs. Karen Newton Office Administrator
Dr. Dale Krider..... Organist

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTON

Order of Morning Worship

January 29, 2023

10:00 A.M.

THE CHURCH GATHERS

WORDS OF GREETING

LITURGIST: Good morning and welcome to the Presbyterian Church of Easton. We thank you, O God, for calling us into your church to be your people in the world. We are ready to hear your word; speak to us, O God, and give us the courage to do your will. With all our doubts and fears and shortcomings, we have come here to worship you. Guide us by your loving spirit. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen. Please join us following the service for coffee / refreshments and to greet our worship leader, Rev. Alison Halsey.

PRELUDE

“From Starry Skies Descending”

BELLS

*Composed by Tu Scendi dalle Stella, arr. Larry Sue.
Published by Larry Sue / Choragus, 2022.
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CALL TO WORSHIP

LITURGIST: Come, all who are poor in spirit;
Come, all who mourn;
Come, all who are meek;
Come, all who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

**ALL: Come, all who would be merciful;
Come, all who would be pure in heart;
Come, all who would be peacemakers.**

LITURGIST: Let us come together – the weak, the simple, the
powerless, the foolish.

**ALL: Let us confess that the source of our life is Jesus
Christ.
Let us worship the God of every blessing.**

***HYMN**

‘Now Thank We All Our God’

PH #555

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers’ arms,
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts

And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in God's grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God,
Who reigns in highest heaven,
To Father and to Son
And Spirit now be given.
The one eternal God,
Whom heaven and earth adore,
The God who was, and is,
And shall be evermore.

*Composed by Martin Rinkart, Catherine Winkworth, Johann Cruger.
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CALL TO CONFESSION

LITURGIST: God sets before us a vision,

ALL: and we pretend not to see.

LITURGIST: Jesus shares with us how we are to live,

ALL: and we just wonder.

LITURGIST: The Spirit nudges us into action,

ALL: and we come up with excuses.

LITURGIST: Let us confess our sins before God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Gracious God, we acknowledge once again that we have fallen short of our high calling as your people. If we have wished someone well, while withholding the help and support we should have given, forgive us, O God. If we have loudly proclaimed our faith but then refused to follow Christ, forgive us, O God. Through the power of your Spirit, make us people of courage, compassion, and integrity, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LITURGIST: In Christ, we are given new life.

ALL: The old is gone away. The new is before us.

LITURGIST: We are freed to live solely in the present.

ALL: That's the good news that sets us free!

***GLORIA PATRI** *“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”* PH#417, st. 4

Laud and honor to the Father,
Laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit,
Ever three and ever one;
One in might and one in glory
While unending ages run.

*Composed by John Neale, Henry Smart (REGENT SQUARE).
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THE PEACE

LITURGIST: Hear the teaching of Christ. A new command I give you: that you love one another as I loved you. As God has given us peace through Christ, so let us pass the peace of Christ to each other.

The peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

(Greet each other with a sign or handshake, whichever you are comfortable with.)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

LITURGIST: Gracious God, we pray that the message today will refresh our understanding of your word, give us new meaning to your scriptures, remove old attitudes of complacency and apathy. Touch us with your Spirit so we may be motivated to actions of Love. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5: 1-12

LITURGIST: Listen for and to the word of God.

¹When Jesus^[a] saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely^[b] on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

LITURGIST: The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God!

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 6:1-8

LITURGIST: Listen for and to the word of God.

¹Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³“O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

LITURGIST: The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Brightest and Best”

BELLS

Arr. Douglas Wagner (STAR IN THE EAST).

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MESSAGE

“The Be Attitude”

REV. ALISON HALSEY

***THE BARMEN DECLARATION**

(Let us stand together and affirm our faith.)

As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so, in the same way and with the same seriousness he is also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures.

***HYMN**

“Be Thou My Vision”

PH#339

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art--

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Irish poem & ballad, trans. Mary Byrne, Eleanor Hall (SLANE).
Published by The Church Hymnary, Oregon Catholic Press, 1927.
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INVITATION TO THE OFFERING REV. ALISON HALSEY

OFFERTORY “Cantilene” (Op. 29, #2) ORGAN

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***DOXOLOGY** *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Composed by Thomas Ken, John Hatton (DUKE STREET).

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PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(The offering plates come forward, take them, and place them on the table.)

REV. ALISON HALSEY: We give back to you, O God, what you have graciously bestowed upon us. Receive our gifts as we seek to walk in your way. Where justice is sought, use these gifts to bring Christ’s liberating word. Where there is pain, may they bring the healing of Christ’s love. Where there is want, let these gifts assure others that you know of their needs before they are voiced. Continue to enhance what we give to you, as we seek to become the people you created us to be. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and 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.

**Please stand, if able.*

***HYMN**

“This Little Light of Mine”

See Slides

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev’ry where I go, I’m gonna let it shine,
Ev’ry where I go, I’m gonna let it shine,
Ev’ry where I go, I’m gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Jesus is our light, I’m gonna let Him shine,
Jesus is our light, I’m gonna let Him shine,
Jesus is our light, I’m gonna let Him shine,
Let Him shine, let Him shine, let Him shine.

Afro-American Spiritual.

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***BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

“Concerto in B-flat”

ORGAN

Composed by G.F. Handel.

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Today's flowers were given by Al Dicenso, in memory of my beloved wife, Barbara, my life partner for 54 years.

We welcome and thank our liturgist, Kim Cassady, and Rev. Alison Halsey for leading us this Sunday morning.
We also welcome the Handbell Sextet from Christ Episcopal Church: Donna Barker, Beth Bush, Sarah Keaton, Barbara Reinhardt, Jackie Royer & Holly Wright.