

# Palms Presbyterian Church

October 18, 2020

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost



## We Come Together as God's People

### Gathering of God's People

#### Prayer of Preparation for worship

We give you all thanks and praise, O God, for you have made us your own, through Christ Jesus, and given us a new righteousness based on faith. You created the entire universe: the sky tells of your glory, day and night reveal the genius of your ways. You brought your people out of slavery and gave them your laws and commandments, that they might be rich in Spirit and clear in vision. Though we repeatedly rejected your ways and destroyed your messengers, you sent your Son to us to renew heaven's call. Though the crowds recognized him as a prophet, those who coveted his inheritance seized and killed him. But you raised him from the dead, and now through the power of his resurrection he stands as the cornerstone of righteousness, the first fruits of the kingdom, and the incomparable prize towards which we press. Therefore, with our hearts lifted high, we offer you thanks and praise at all times through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### Prelude

#### Welcome & Announcements

#### PNC Update

#### Introit

*Joyful, Joyful: A Hymn to Joy*  
The Chancel Bells

arr. William Moats

#### Call to Worship (Responsive) including the PPC Mission Statement

Long ago a vineyard was planted. The ground was prepared, and all was made ready. A fence was built around it and a tower was placed in its midst.

**Tenants were entrusted to cultivate the vineyard and care for it. They forgot the One who planted the vineyard. They chose their own ways and failed.**

Come away from the vineyards of misplaced loyalties. Seek the strength to live by all we profess. Turn to the Lord.  
*By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are called to worship God: to connect in community, to nurture in love, to serve in the world, to be a light in the dark and to stand strong in faith. ...*

## We Praise God and Celebrate God's Grace

#### Opening Hymn

*O Christ, the Great Foundation*

# 361

#### THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

**How many times each day do You come to me, Jesus? How many quiet prophets, how many whispered warnings are sent to catch my attention? And how many times do I pass by unaware of Your calm presence, unfeeling of Your beckoning gaze? How often have I shunned Your messengers; sending them away with clipped words and cold eyes? How often have I hurt the agents of Your care; too busy or self-absorbed to notice Your invitation in their words? Forgive me, Lord, when through neglect, pre-occupation or wrongfulness, I turn my back on You. Teach me to see, to listen and to walk with an open heart, so that I can welcome You, and answer You, when, in grace and love, You call me to follow.**  
(A time for Silent and Personal Confession.)

#### Kyrie

*For the Troubles and the Sufferings of the World*

Rodolfo Neto

For the troubles and the sufferings of the world, God, we call upon your mercy: the whole creation's laboring in pain!  
Lend an ear to the rising cry for help from oppressed and hopeless people: Come! Hasten your salvation, healing love!  
We pray for peace, the blessed peace that comes from making justice, to cover and embrace us. Have mercy, Lord!  
We pray for power, the power that will sustain your people's witness: until your Kingdom come, Kyrie eleison!

#### The Assurance of Pardon (Responsive)

When we allow God to touch us, our malice is melted down, our fears are defeated, our failures are forgiven.  
**God raises us from death to new life, from helplessness to hope, from arrogant self-seeking to humble service.**  
*Let us sing God's praise.*

**\*Response to God's Love and Forgiveness**

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines On Me*

# 582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free! As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

**\*Affirmation of Faith (Unison) – The Apostle's Creed**

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 into hell; 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.

**A Time for Children**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offertory**

Festive Toccata on *Old Hundredth*

arr. Cathy Moglebust

**\*Doxology**

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

# 606

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

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

## We Hear God's Word

**New Testament Lesson**

Matthew 21:33-43

**Anthem**

*How Can I Keep from Singing?*

arr. Arnold Sherman

**Sermon**

***JESUS' VIEWS ON VITICULTURE – III: Violence in the Vineyard***

Dr. Jeffrey Weenink

**Response**

*Breathe On Me, Breath of God*

Robert Jackson

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

Our Father who are 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.

**Sending Hymn**

*God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me: O Christ, Surround Me*

# 543

**THE COMMISSIONING (Responsive)** including the PPC Vision Statement

Who will again plant, prune, and cause us to grow in faithfulness?

**The One who planted the vineyard – our Creator, Sustainer, Lord and God.**

God calls us to daily self-examination. God offers us choices that lead to wholeness.

**God's plan for us is not destruction, but fulfillment.**

***Palms is a diverse and transformative community of believers embodying the grace of Christ by:***

- ***Serving as bridge builders for a divided world.***
- ***Working as ambassadors for compassion and reconciliation.***
- ***Growing servant leaders for God's work in a rapidly changing world.***

**\*Benediction**

**Response**

*Amen*

Danish

**\*Postlude**