

9:00 a.m.

Devotional Service

September 10, 2023

Welcome to the 9:00 a.m. Devotional Service. Together, may we rejoice and give thanks for God's loving grace in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Welcome, Life in the Community, and Ritual of Friendship

*Hymn 729 **Lord, I Want to Be a Christian** I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

*Expressing Our Joy

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

People: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Leader: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

People: "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!"

Leader: Your face, Lord, do I seek. Do not hide your face from me.

People: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Leader: Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;

People: Wait for the Lord! (Psalm 27)

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray. (Congregation seated.)

Prayer of Trust and Confidence

Invitation to Self-Examination and Confession of our Need for God's Forgiveness (unison)

Merciful God, when we let you touch the deep places within us, we are moved to tears of remorse. Again and again, we violate the best you intend for us, in order to pursue our own whims and desires. We labor for food that perishes and ignore the Bread of Life. We take for ourselves what you intend for others, and resent you questioning our stewardship. We settle for fragmentation rather than working for unity. Forgive and heals us, God.

Time of Silence and Personal Confession

The Assurance of Forgiveness

Genesis 33:1-10 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 29 in the pew Bible.]

Luke 15:11-32 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 73-74 in the pew Bible.]

Sermon **Grace-Filled Homecomings** The Rev. Vance E. Polley

*Affirmation of Faith and **Gloria Patri** (No. 581)

Christ Jesus though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death— even death on a Cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen. (Phil. 2:5-11)

Ministry of Prayer [Text prayer requests to: (843) 437-4239]

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*At the Presentation **Doxology** (No. 606) OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication, concluding with *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.

*Hymn 726 **Will You Come and Follow Me** KELVINGROVE

*Blessing

*Going Out into the World

*All those who are able, please stand.