

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 20, 2015

10:00 a.m.

In preparation for worship, please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Hymn
Concerns of the Church
Prelude

Call to Worship

God, in wisdom and love, has gathered us all here today.

And we have come: to sing God's praises, to pray with each other and to hear God's word for our lives.

And we have come, though God's word might turn us upside down.

For the last are first. The least are the greatest.

With God's help, we can make sense of it together.

Let us worship God, who loves us and provides the way.

* Hymn 401

"Here in This Place"

Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

Gracious and loving God,

Jesus said those who are great will be the servants of all.

We confess this is not always easy to put into practice.

We tend, more often than we care to admit,

to be motivated by praise and recognition for the good we do.

Even with our best intentions,

we are happy to be noticed for our charity and loving hearts.

Please forgive us when we are self-centered.

Restore in us the joy of loving you and serving our neighbors.

Help us to grow into the image you planted within us.

* Silent Confession

* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

* Response 447

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God!

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: James 3:13-4:8 (NT, p. 230)

Psalter: Psalm 1

A Time with Children

Anthem

Wilkes University Chamber Choir

Gospel Lesson: Mark 9:30-37 (NT, p. 45)

Sermon: "The Least We Can Do"

Lorrie Loughney

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 203

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

* Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed (Hymnal, p. 35)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

A Minute for Peacemaking

Offering

Offertory

* Doxology (606)

* Prayer of Dedication

Dave Porter

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 372

"O For a World"

- * Charge and Benediction
- * Postlude

* All who are able shall stand.

The flowers this morning have been given to the Glory of God
❖ by Janet Stansbury in memory of loved ones, and
❖ by Char and Fred Lyon in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Guest Preacher	Lorrie Loughney
Director of Educational Ministries	Tina Ide
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Guest Pianist	Steven
Thomas	
Liturgist	Connie Weiss
Ushers	Sara Ann Hosier, Ginny O'Brien

We extend a warm welcome to Dr. Steven Thomas and his Wilkes University Chamber Choir, who will offer special music for our worship service today. For several years, we have opened our facility to Steven and the choir as they do a "mega-rehearsal" at the beginning of their semester. In turn, they offer their music as a gift for us to enjoy.



We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.

“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me...”

Mark 9:37



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James 3:13-4:8

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Adulterers! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?

Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you suppose that it is for nothing that the scripture says, "God yearns jealously for the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? But he gives all the more grace; therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Mark 9:30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."