

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 21, 2016

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn Sing (9:45)

Concerns of the Church

Prelude "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" arr. Hobby

Call to Worship

Rejoice with me, people of God.

God has gathered us in from the wilderness.

Rejoice with me, people of God.

God has swept away the darkness of the night.

Rejoice with me, people of God.

Today, there is joy in the presence of the angels.

* Hymn 263 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"
Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

**Holy God,
we confess that we fail to put our trust in you completely.
Instead, we calculate our gains and losses,
hoarding the things that do not lead to abundant life.
Forgive us, and help us to treasure only you,
that we may follow you faithfully
and discover the blessings only you can give.**

* Silent Confession

* Assurance of Pardon

* Passing of the Peace

* Response 390 "Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!"

Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia! (repeat)
Praise God's holy name. Alleluia! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia! (repeat)

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter: Psalm 19, responsively (OT, p. 498)

A Time with Children

Special Music

"Teach Me to Pray"

arr. H. Ivers

Men's Choir, directed by Frank Jones

New Testament Lesson: John 1:1-18 (NT, p. 91)

Sermon: "The Vastness and Nearness of God"

Dr. Young

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 463 "How Firm a Foundation"

* Affirmation of Faith from "A Declaration of Faith", Pres Church (US)

**God created all the worlds that are
and upholds and rules everything.**

**We affirm that the universe exists
by the power of God's Word and Spirit.**

**God has chosen to give it reality
out of the love we have come to know in Christ.**

**God still works
through the processes that shape and change the earth
and the living things upon it.**

**We acknowledge God's care and control
in the regularity of the universe
as well as in apparently random happenings.**

**There is no event from which God is absent
and his ultimate purpose in all events is just and loving.**

**That purpose embraces our choices
and will surely be accomplished.**

**The Creator works in all things
toward the new creation that is promised in Christ.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer
Minute for "Worship Through Service"

Offering

Offertory

"How Great Thou Art"

Hine

Ashley R. Fisher, soloist; Chris Vogel, accompanist

* Doxology (606)

* Prayer of Dedication

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 435

"There's A Wideness in God's Mercy"

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude

"This is My Father's World"

arr. Hobby

* All who are able shall stand.

The flowers this morning have been given to the glory of God

- by Diane and Jack Scheuer in loving memory of their daughter, Ella, and
- in loving memory of Jo Conklin.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Guest Preacher

The Rev. Dr. Robert D. Young

Organist

Kay Ten Eyck

Liturgist

Jim Justin

Soloist

Ashley R. Fisher

Accompanist

Chris Vogel

Ushers

Joe Waters, Wayne Griffiths

Welcomers

Sandra and Steuart Bailey

We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.

**First Presbyterian Church
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He himself
was not the light,



but he came to
testify to the light.
John 1:8

Psalm 19

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

²Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

³There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

⁵which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

⁸the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;

⁹the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

¹¹Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

¹³Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we

have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.