

**Morning Worship**  
**September 6, 2009**  
**Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Coming Together in Christ**

9:55 AM MEDITATION (Please pause in quiet preparation for worship.)

10:00 AM CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

*Concerto in B Flat*

Handel

**Entering God's Presence**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Seek the Lord, while he may be found, or you may find yourself forever lost.

**People: We come, God, seeking your presence in our lives.**

Leader: Serve God with a heart full of devotion.

**People: Direct our lives in the way you would have us go, Lord. We will do our best to follow Christ.**

\* HYMN OF PRAISE #362

*I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry*

"CM"

THE PRAYER OF APPROACH

SILENCE

AMEN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (together)

God our Creator, we all want to be winners, we want to succeed, we want to do great things for you. But we are not as eager to do the work. We are slow to read the Bible and build our understanding of your will. We hardly pay attention in worship and are lazy making time to pray. We dream of doing big things in your name, but we ignore the needs of people we work with every day. We talk about feeding the hungry, building homes for the homeless, and making the world fair, but we always have excuses for not working on church mission projects. We give only our leftover money. Forgive us and discipline us. Help us to shape up into the strong, active Christians you call us to be. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

— Carolyn C. Brown, *"Forbid Them Not: Involving Children in Sunday Worship"*, Year B,  
Abingdon Press, 1993

KYRIE ELEISON

Song #61, Lift Up Your Hearts

**Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.  
You are the potter, I am the clay,  
mold me and make me, this is what I pray.  
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.**

THE DECLARATION OF PARDON

Rev. John Dillon

\* THE RESPONSE IN PRAISE

v. 1, #239, The Hymnal

**How happy is each child of God who walks within God's ways!  
You'll reap good fruit from honest work and joy in life always.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Hearing God's Word

TIME FOR CHILDREN

\* SONG

*In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

#88, Lift Up Your Hearts

FIRST LESSON:

2 Kings 5:1-14

Pew Bible p. 320-321

SECOND LESSON:

Matthew 25: 35-43

Pew Bible p. 27

THE SOLO

*Rise my Child*  
Julie Courtney, mezzo-soprano

Dorothy Christopherson

Rise and stand upon your feet, my child, to serve and to bear witness unto me. I send you near or far, that they may turn from darkness to the Light, that they may see. Rise and stand upon your feet, my child, to use your loving heart and willing mind. I send you, heaven-blest and Spirit-led, that Christ-forgiven souls new joy may find.

THE SERMON

"Which Way Do We Go?"

Rev. John Dillon

## Our Response to God's Love

\* THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**To be reconciled with God is to be sent into the world as his reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares his labor of healing the enmities which separate men from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to his call.**

—9.31, *The Confession of 1967*

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(Please partake of the communion elements as you receive them.)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## WORSHIPPING THE LORD THROUGH OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY SOLO

*Wordless Song within the Waters*

Alfred V. Fedak

Julie Courtney, mezzo-soprano

Wordless song within the waters, whales draw breath and dive and sing. Hymns no human tongue can offer set the ocean echoing. Wordless singers wake our wonder, what can human voices bring? We will offer words for praising God, the Maker of all things.

Wordless song within the forest, wolves are howling in the night, haunting sounds outside the circle cast for us by campfire light; wordless singers, like the Spirit, on whose pleading we reply; let us dare to name the yearning in the Spirit's wordless cry.

Wordless song in early morning, songbirds sing as day draws near. Carols calling out their presence please the waking human ear. Wordless singers claim their places with a flag of song unfurled. We will sing the name of Jesus, word of joy that claims the world.

\* THE DOXOLOGY

**#114 Lift Up Your Hearts**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong;"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks, give thanks, give thanks!**

\* OFFERTORY PRAYER

\* THE HYMN OF PARTING #263

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

"St. Denio"

\* SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

Leader: The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

(Please greet one another in the peace of Christ.)

\* SUNG BENEDICTION

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

Dennis

(Please join hands as we sing the Benediction)

**Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love:  
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.**

## Going Forth in God's Love

\* THE POSTLUDE

"St. Denio"

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\* Those who wish to do so are invited to stand

### About the Affirmation of Faith

The PC (USA) Book of Confessions is a collection of Confessions from the church in many ages and many different situations. Therefore, its expressions of faith cover a multitude of theological opinions, many of which are obviously influenced by who participated in their preparation and the times and customs of their era. While not necessarily agreeing with every statement precisely, our Ministers, Elders, and Deacons swear to be guided by its principles and truths. We select a passage from one of these Confessions each month to experience and explore the breadth and depth of our heritage.

Continuing our exploration of the Confessions, in September we will be using the *Confession of 1967*.

The Book of Confessions Study Edition prefaces "The Confession of 1967" with the following explanation:

"The church confesses its faith when it bears a present witness to God's grace in Jesus Christ. In every age, the church has expressed its witness in words and deeds as the need of the time required. Confessions and declarations are subordinate standards... No one type of confession is exclusively valid, no one statement is irreformable. Obedience to Jesus Christ alone identifies the one universal church and supplies the continuity of its tradition..."

"The purpose of the Confession of 1967 is to call the church to that unity in confession and mission which is required of disciples today. This Confession is not a "system of doctrine", nor does it include all the traditional topics of theology. For example, the Trinity and the Person of Christ are not redefined, but are recognized and reaffirmed as forming the basis and determining the structure of the Christian faith."

### Statement of Purpose

Our Church exists to worship God and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Spirit, we shall serve God's Kingdom by loving our neighbors and promoting peacemaking, justice and care of the earth.

### Statement of Vision

We embrace open and progressive theology. Through education, training, worship and Session leadership we will realize our vision both individually and in community. We will be open to new ideas and programs while staying true to our beliefs and traditions. We will commit our personal and corporate resources to embody our Statement of Purpose. We will live our lives responsibly with honesty and integrity.

## What's Happening This Week:



	<b>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER (6)</b>
10:00 AM	Worship Service, 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Communion, On the Air WCBC
	<b>MONDAY, SEPTEMBER (7)</b>
	<b>Labor Day Holiday</b> Church Office Closed No Learning Tree School
	<b>TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER (8)</b>
9:00 AM	Church Office Open
9:00 AM	Learning Tree Preschool
4:30 PM	Finance & Admin Meeting in the Parlor
	<b>WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER (9)</b>
9:00 AM	Church Office Open
9:00 AM	Learning Tree Preschool
6:15 PM	JoyBells Polish & Parley
7:30 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
	<b>THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER (10)</b>
9:00 AM	Church Office Open
9:00 AM	Learning Tree Preschool
7:00 PM	Session Meeting in Library
	<b>FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER (11)</b>
9:00 AM	Church Office Open
9:00 AM	Learning Tree Preschool
	<b>SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER (12)</b>
8:00 AM	W. MD. Churches Breakfast at Ponderosa
	<b>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER (13)</b>
9:30 AM	Sunday School "Launch" Breakfast
11:00 AM	Worship Service, 24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Montreat Service, Children's Choir Awards On the Air WCBC
12:00 Noon	Congregational Meeting
	<b>SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER (12)</b>
8:00 AM	Barrelville Church Flea Market
9:00 AM	FPC Church Clean Up Day
	<b>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER (20)</b>
9:15 AM	Children's Choir Rehearsal
9:45 AM	Sunday School for All Ages
10:15 AM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
11:00 AM	Worship Service, 25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Elders Ordained/Installed, Blessing of the Backpacks Veeda Javaid, Guest Speaker On the Air WCBC