

Order of Worship

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 19, 2023

Gathering and Welcome *Come Ye Thankful People Come*

Prelude *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* – Spiritual Jessye Whitis, pianist

***Call to worship**

Lord, you have been our dwelling place;
we come today to rest in you.
You have been the voice that guides us;
we come today to listen.
You have been the host who feeds us;
we come today to be filled.
You have been our joy and crown;
we come today to sing your praise!

Opening Hymn # 391 *This Is the Day

***Call to confession**

We know that our sins are too heavy for us to carry, too real to hide and too deep to undo. But we also know that you can lift that weight from us and transform our lives. So, we lift our prayer of confession to you:

***Prayer of confession**

**Merciful God, we confess that once again,
we have done what is evil in your sight.
We've made mistakes.
We've made missteps.
We have hurt people,
by action and inaction.
We have wounded creation,
by action and inaction.
We have chosen our ways over yours,
by action and inaction.
And if the sum total of what we have done
and what we have not done
adds up to evil in your sight,
then in your sight we ask you
to turn us towards goodness.
Forgive our past, and shape our future
that we might build your kingdom here.
In the strong name of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

***Assurance of pardon**

Hear the good news! Who is our God?
Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
We are forgiven, rescued and redeemed. **Alleluia! Amen.**

Choral Anthem *I Have Called You By Your Name* - Joyce Eilers Bacak

Prayer for illumination

Holy Spirit, your wisdom guides us deep into the mystery of your truth. Speak to us today, that we might understand your will and walk in your ways. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Scripture readings | Samuel 17: 41-49; James 4: 13-17

Sermon *One Morning with Barbara Clements at Scott & White Hospital*
Rev. Mark Salmon

***Affirmation of faith** (adapted from the Confession of 1967)

**God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ
embraces the whole of our life.
It is the will of God that God's purpose for human life
shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ
and all evil be banished from creation.
Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world,
stirring hope in people and preparing the world
to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.
With an urgency born of this hope,
the church applies itself to present tasks
and strives for a better world.
It does not identify limited progress
with the kingdom of God on earth,
nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat.
In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial
achievement to the final triumph of God.**

***Hymn of Response #681** *This is the Day the Lord Hath Made*

Call for the offering

When we give, we combat the lie
that we do not matter in this world.
So, as we enter a time of giving,
I invite you to reflect
on how your life, your skills,
your time, and your money
matter to this congregation
and to God's mission in the world.

Offertory *We Gather Together* – Dutch Melody Jessye Whitis, pianist

***Doxology # 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

Prayer of dedication

Generous God,
with Thanksgiving quickly approaching,
we are reminded to give you thanks
for the ministries of this congregation
which you have entrusted us with.
We are honored by the opportunity
to be your holy body here.
Bless these offerings, however they are given
that our efforts may be ever more worthy of your name.
Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

***Hymn of Sending # 540 Farewell, Good Friends (Shalom)**

Benediction

Postlude *March in D* – C.P.E. Bach Jessye Whitis, pianist

Adapted from © Presbyterian Outlook, 2023 Liturgy written by Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett.

Today the Rev. Mark Salmon, H.R., is returning to Belton as a guest minister to preach at First Presbyterian Church where he began his ministry in 1982. Mark and his wife, Dee, served at First Presbyterian in Belton for 15 years. During that time, their daughter, Marlana, was born.

After his service to the Belton Church, Mark and family served in Denison and Corpus Christi in Texas, Sun City Center, Florida, and currently he is the part-time minister at a church outside New York City. Marlana, her husband and son live in the Bronx, New York, so this last ministry allows Mark and Dee to be close to their daughter and family; plus he has been able to attend baseball games with his beloved New York Yankees.

Mark states that "ministry remains so rewarding and fun. The good of my ministry all started in Belton because it is not just that 'This is the Day the Lord Has Made' but FPC of Belton was truly the congregation that God had Chosen me to service for 15 years and to grow in so many areas."

JOIN US FOR A HOLIDAY LUNCHEON IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL