

**Edgewood Presbyterian Church
Homewood, Alabama
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023**

****Please text any prayer requests to 205-924-5080 before the Sharing of the Peace.
Please include your name, unless you wish the request to be anonymous. ****

Prayer of Preparation

O God, help me to shed my shame, my guilt, my burden. Amen.

Chiming of the Trinity

Waters of Baptism

“God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God’s love is strong and it never ends.”

HYMN 399

Prelude

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation
(Hymn Tune: Neander) Johann Sebastian Bach

Welcome

Call to Worship

Kevin Patton, Liturgist

We have gathered in God’s holy presence,
the one who etches grace on our hearts.

We ask God to transform us into disciples.

We glorify our God, who yearns for justice, not just for a favored few,
but for the least of our world.

We yearn for the Spirit to write compassion on our souls.

We give thanks to God for unceasing grace;
we remember Christ’s persistence in seeking us.

Holy God, breathe your Word of life into us.

Prayer of the Day

1 Morning has broken
like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning,
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation;
praise every morning,
God's re-creation
of the new day!

Invitation to Reconciliation

Prayer of Brokenness

**God of mercy, we struggle to understand the mercy you give.
We hold onto bitterness. We grip our anger tightly.
Even more, we cling to our own shame. Fill our hearts with mercy.
Teach us forgiveness. Show us the way of Christ.
Listen to our hearts as we pray to you in silence...**

Declaration of Forgiveness

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, and restored to new life!

Gloria 583



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!". There are asterisks above the first notes of each line, and a dashed line above the second staff.

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter

Psalm 103: 8-13

- ⁸ LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
- ⁹ **you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.**
- ¹⁰ You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.
- ¹¹ **For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who stand in awe of you.**
- ¹² As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgression from us.
- ¹³ **As a loving parent has compassion for their children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.**

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 18: 18-35

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

“Loose”

The Rev. Joe Genau

1 We cannot measure how you heal
or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds
where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to life
and cradle children yet unborn.

2 The pain that will not go away,
the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds,
are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends
the hurt we never hoped to find,
the private agonies inside,
the memories that haunt the mind.

3 So some have come who need your help
and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the world
are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here
to mend the body, mind, and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain,
and make your broken people whole.

Sharing of the Peace

Announcements for the Community of Faith

Anthem

Who at My Door Is Standing

K. Lee Scott

Who at my door is standing, then patiently drawing near, who entrance is demanding?
Whose is the voice I hear? Sweetly the tones are falling; "Now open the door for me!
If thou wilt heed my calling, I will abide with thee."

Within, the rooms are darkened, all filled with dust and sin; how shameful, how unworthy for Christ to
enter in. Yet, the tones are falling; "Now open the door for me!
If thou wilt heed my calling, I will abide with thee."

Door of my heart, I hasten! Thee will I open wide, though he rebuke and chasten, he shall with me abide.
Sweetly the tones are falling; "Now open the door for me! Lord God, I hear thee calling,
Come now, abide with me. Dear Lord, abide with me."

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup

Communion of the People

Music at Communion

Variations on Westminster Abbey

Robert Wetzler

Concerns of the Church & Prayers of the People

Please text your prayer requests to 205-924-5080.

Please include your name unless you wish to remain anonymous.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty.
Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

Charge from the Steps

Charge and Benediction

Rev. Joe Genau

Choral Benediction

Amen

Marty Haugen

Postlude

Fugue in D Major

Wilhelm Friedemann Bach