



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 6, 2009

Eleven o'clock

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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## THE GATHERING

*The service of worship begins with the prelude; quiet is requested as you enter the sanctuary and prepare for worship. In the spirit of Christian fellowship, we invite you to wear a name tag which is available from the greeters. As a community that prays with and for one another, we invite you to share your joys and concerns by using the blue cards available from the ushers and in the welcome pad folders. Those parts of the Service of Worship in which the congregation participates in word or song are noted in bold type.*

*\*Stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE                      Andante - Allegro (Concerto for Lute)                      Vivaldi

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Incline your hearts to the wisdom of God

**People: We seek integrity and understanding**

Leader: God's law gives light to all who hear it

**People: The Lord gives wisdom and truth**

Leader: The Lord will reign forever

**People: Praise be to the Lord!**

\* HYMN 262    God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand    National Hymn

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(Please use the welcome pad in the blue folder at the end of the pew. Record your presence. Pass it back, noticing who is worshipping with you. When the pad has been returned, please tear off the sheet and place it in the offering plate.)*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we confess that we find it a lot easier to play favorites, rather than treating everyone equally. We find it simpler to classify others as 'them,' instead of discovering what makes them beloved in your eyes. We cling to fear rather than grasp hold of your enduring love. We say we trust you, but quickly our fears silence our words. We find you at the side of the poor, while we cozy up to the prosperous. You are serving the hungry at the soup kitchen, while we stay in our comfortable surroundings. Forgive us, O Lord, and do good to us when we have trouble doing good for others. Surround us with your love; surround us with your grace; surround us with your peace; surround us with the Spirit of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF SILENT AND INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Friends, believe and proclaim the Good News: in Jesus Christ, love breaks through hatred, hope breaks through despair, life breaks through death.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and set free.  
Thanks be to God!

\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Hymnal No. 579

*Gloria Patri*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, Amen.*

**\* EXCHANGE OF PEACE**

Leader: Let us open our hearts to one another as Christ has opened his heart to us, and God will be glorified.

*People: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

(Exchange Signs of Reconciliation and the Peace of Christ with your neighbor - e.g., *“The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”*)

Response - *“And also with you.”*)

**\* HYMN 357**      O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee      Maryton

*+ Children and Youth remain for the rest of the Worship Service. +*

**THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST LESSON**      Isaiah 35:1-10

**ANTHEM**      “Qui tollis peccata mundi” (from Mass in G-minor)      J.S. Bach

DANIEL MOLKENTIN, TENOR

Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram.

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus. Tu solus Dominus.

Tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe.

*Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.*

*Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.*

*Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.*

*For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;*

*thou only art most high, Jesus Christ.*

**SECOND LESSON**      Mark 7:24-37

**SERMON**      “Unavoidable Abundance”      Rev. Richard S. Hong

**OFFERTORY** "In Native Worth" (from *The Creation*)

Joseph Haydn

DANIEL MOLKENTIN, TENOR

*In native worth and honour clad,  
With beauty, courage, strength, adorned,  
To heav'n erect and tall he stands  
A man, the lord and king of nature all.  
The large and arched front sublime  
Of wisdom deep declares the seat!  
And in his eyes with brightness shines  
The soul, the breath and image of his God.  
With fondness leans upon his breast  
The partner for him formed,  
A woman, fair and graceful spouse.  
Her softly smiling virgin looks,  
Of flour'y spring the mirror,  
Bespeak him love, and joy, and bliss.*

**\* THE DOXOLOGY**

*Old Hundredth*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.  
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

**THE SENDING OUT**

**\* HYMN 386**

O for a World

*Azmon*

**\* BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Allegro (Concerto for Lute)*

*Vivaldi*

*(Our worship ends with the conclusion of the Postlude. It is the custom of our church to remain seated. Those who wish to leave may do so.)*

## TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Isaiah 35:1-10 (NRSV)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### Mark 7:24-37 (NRSV)

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, <sup>25</sup>but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

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