

WE GATHER TOGETHER



**The Presbyterian Church on the Hill**

September 9, 2018 ~10:15am  
23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

In Preparation *(Thought for Silent Reflection)*

*“Think occasionally of the suffering of which you spare yourself the sight.”  
-Albert Schweitzer*

Chimes

Prelude      **Variations on “O for a Thousand Tongues”**  
*arr. Robert Hobby*

*As we gather together in the sanctuary, please listen to the music and spend time in  
silent reflection in preparation for worship.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Where are the teachers in our midst who will guide us as we learn?

**People:      We follow Christ’s example, and learn from one another!**

Leader: Where are Jesus’ disciples, who thirst to know God’s ways?

**People:      We follow Christ’s example, and learn from one another!**

Leader: Our church school is this sacred space and our classroom is the world.

**People:      We follow Christ’s example, and learn from one another!**

Leader: Thanks be to God for new beginnings, for new opportunities to learn together!

**People:      We follow Christ’s example, and learn from one another!**

UNISON GATHERING PRAYER

**Holy God, maker of us all, you call us to love our neighbors as ourselves and teach us that faith without works is dead. Open us to the opportunities for ministry that lie before us, where faith and works and the need of our neighbor come together in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

▲ Hymn No. 610      **“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**  
*Azmon*  
(Stanzas 1 – 4)

▲ CALL TO CONFESSION

▲ LITANY OF CONFESSION (read responsively)

Leader:      Rabbi, Teacher Jesus,  
                 You who taught thousands and yet were willing to learn from the least of these, we confess that we pretend to know when in truth we still wonder.

**People:      Forgive our pretense, that we may open ourselves to unexpected teachers, to fresh ideas, to one another, to you.**

Leader: Vulnerable Christ, you who lived in generous love, we confess that we have closed ourselves off, that we have seen so much suffering, that we stop looking rather than see and respond to those in need.

People: **Forgive our neglect that we may care for one another and follow in the example you set for us. In your name we pray. Amen.**

*(Moment of silent reflection)*

▲ ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

▲ PASSING OF THE PEACE

▲ Hymn No. 583

**“Glory to God”**

*Gloria*

*(Sung once in unison, once as a round)*

Life on the Hill

Today (September 9): ✠ WORSHIP 10:15am

Tuesday (September 11): ✠ Worship Community 6:30pm  
CE Community 7:30pm

Wednesday, (September 12): ✠ Stephen Ministry Training 7:00pm

Thursday, (September 13): ✠ Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm

Saturday, (September 15): ✠ Property Day - 9am-Noon

Next Sunday: ✠ WORSHIP 10:15am with Holy Communion

## WE HEAR THE WORD



*Stephen Lofthouse*

First Scripture Reading James 2:1—10, 14-17 (NRSV)

My brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ?<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>2</sup> For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in,<sup>3</sup> and if you take notice of the one wearing

the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,”<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>4</sup> have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup> Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters.<sup>[d]</sup> Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup> But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup> Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? <sup>8</sup> You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>9</sup> But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. <sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers and sisters,<sup>[e]</sup> if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food,<sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup> So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

SOLO

**“Morning Has Broken”**

*arr. Dale Wood*

*Carol Fine Hart, soloist*

Second Scripture Reading Mark 7:24-37 (NRSV)

<sup>24</sup> From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre.<sup>[f]</sup> 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,<sup>[g]</sup> 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<sup>fil</sup> 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.”

SERMON                      **“Be Opened”**                      *Pastor Deb Packard*

### WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

#### ▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in the God who made and owns the world, and in the Servant God sent to redeem the world, and in the Holy Spirit who is God’s presence in the world today.**

**I believe that everything I have is really God’s, given into my keeping for the good of the world.**

**I believe that I am expected to live spiritually in the world, dealing justly with all persons and contributing to the care of the poor and needy.**

**I believe that my own life and the lives of those I love will be blessed by my faithfulness in stewardship and my devotion to spiritual matters, for God rewards those who seek the welfare of others and a greater sense of the heavenly kingdom.**

▲ Hymn No. 343    **“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”**  
*Germany*  
*(Stanzas 1, 2, 5 6)*

### PRESENTING OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

OFFERTORY                      **“The Gift of Love”**                      *arr. Hal Hopson*

#### ▲ MUSICAL RESPONSE and PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Hymn No. 435    **“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”**  
*In Babilone*  
*(Stanza 1)*

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.***

▲ Hymn No. 761    **“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”**  
*Beecher*

#### ▲ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

▲ CHORAL BENEDICTION - Hymn No. 748  
**“Go with Us, Lord”**  
*(sung once in unison, once as a round)*

Postlude                      **“Beecher”**                      *arr. Janet Linker*

▲ *Indicates when, if you are able, the congregation stands.*

**Our worship has ended – now our service begins.**

We sincerely welcome all who have come to worship the Creator of us all. As brothers and sisters, let us give evidence that we belong to the family of God. Extend the hand of friendship to those around you, and be grateful for the gift of friends and family. If you are in need of pastoral care or perhaps a listening ear, please speak to one of our Elders, Deacons, or Stephen Ministers.

□ \_\_\_\_\_  
**LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

**Lisa Keller, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN ED. & NURTURE**

**Dr. Jeff Unger, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST**

**Bonnie Carle, NURSERY SUPERVISOR**

**Isaiah C. Mason, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN’S & YOUTH MUSIC**

**Sharon Fix, CLERK OF SESSION**

**Jamie Montero, HEAD USHER**

**Deanne Nirider & Rick Degurski,**

STEPHEN MINISTRY COORDINATORS

**Michael Compoly, TREASURER**

Judy Quitne, DEACON MODERATOR  
 Jackie Colin, ADMIN. ASSISTANT/OFFICE SUPERVISOR  
 Letitia Jensen, WORSHIP PREPARATION COORDINATOR  
 Bill Turner, PASTOR – HONORABLY RETIRED  
 Deborah A. Packard, INTERIM PASTOR



**The Ministry of Flowers**

**New 2018 Chart is now posted!** If you would like flowers in the sanctuary for a particular Sunday please sign up. Cost: \$45.00. Questions? Please speak with Judy Quitne. Are you aware that our Deacons deliver the flowers to our shut-ins and hospitalized folks with our prayers and concern every Sunday?

*The Chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Robert S. Kelsey by Laura & Ed Kelsey*

*The flower basket is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Letitia Jensen's birthday by Laura Evernham and Guy Rayner*

**Serving Today**

- † **Greeters:** Tina Ellis and Laura Evernham
- † **Ushers:** Team 5: Elda Gall, Capt., Rob Bataille, Bill Brown, Robin Compoly, Guy Rayner, Roger Stewart
- † **Flower Duty:** Giselle McCormick, Elda Gall
- † **Trustee Duty:** Michael Compoly, Wendy Robinson
- † **Fellowship Host:** Barbara & Stephen Lofthouse
- † **Worship Prep:** 9/15 Carol Cox



**Music Notes from Dr. Jeff**

Thanks to Carol (daughter of June and Frank Fine) for sharing her beautiful voice with us this morning!

Attention Singers: Chancel Choir rehearsals resume this Thursday evening at 7:30. New members are always welcome – if you like to sing to the Lord, come join us!

AND next Sunday is Congregational Choir. We will be singing “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.” Just another reason to join us Thursday night.



**Sign Up Sheets**

*(posted on rear table in sanctuary)*



**Fellowship Time Hosts**



**Scripture Readers**



**Greeters**

**Life on the Hill Notes  
 September 9th**



**PCOH NURSERY**

**TODAY**

**Megan Zarodnansky**

September 16 \_\_\_\_\_ September 23 \_\_\_\_\_  
 September 30 \_\_\_\_\_ October 07 \_\_\_\_\_



*When you are shopping,  
 please remember that:*

**Trinity Needs Food**

*When you are cooking,  
 please remember that:*

**The Center Needs Meals**



**“CHRIST CARING FOR PEOPLE THROUGH PEOPLE”**

*If you, or a neighbor, co-worker or friend could benefit from the trained, caring presence and listening ear of a Stephen Minister, please contact Stephen Leader Deanne Nirider (281/744-1054).*

“CHURCH ON THE HILL is a diverse, inclusive community of God’s people whose faith is led by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. We welcome, love, and empower all persons to become constructive, affirming thinkers, filled with hope, making a difference in the world. Armed with forgiveness and understanding in the knowledge that “God alone is Lord of the conscience” (Historical Principles, G-1.0301a), we will move forward in an ever changing culture and world.

□ **FAITH** □ **LOVE** □ **HOPE** □ **FORGIVENESS** □ **UNDERSTANDING** □

### **Presbyterian Church on the Hill**

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**Church Office HOURS: Mon. - Wed. - Fri. 9am-1pm**