

Philippians

TO LIVE IS CHRIST



CALVARY
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

World Communion Sunday
October 1st, 2023

Gathering

During the Prelude we invite you to greet one another with love outside the Chapel, and allow those within to meditate, pray or just listen.

Prelude “Come, Christians Join to Sing” arr. by Benjamin Carr

Welcome

*Call to Worship

*congregation please stand in body or spirit

Leader: I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”

People: All people are welcome in this house—people of every race, nation and tongue.

Leader: In this house the Lord of hosts prepares a feast of rich food and choice wine.

People: At God’s table, all will be fed. No one will leave hungry.

Leader: God’s house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

People: All who love the name of the Lord will worship God here!

*Opening Hymn #461 “God Is Here”

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Musical Response “All Are Welcome”

*Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

Joys and Concerns and Pastoral Prayer

Leader: Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayers

Poem “Love’s Choice” A Sonnet on Communion by Malcolm Guite

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scriptures: Philippians 3:1-16

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "The Paradox of Gain and Loss"

*Hymn #2254 "In Remembrance of Me"

Time for Response to the Sermon

Communion

Call to Confession

Whatever good we have done is nothing compared to the righteousness of Christ. Whatever wrong we have done is nothing compared to the grace of God. With faith in Christ's righteousness and confidence in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you invite us to your glorious feast, yet we fail to come. We are affronted by your inclusion of "those people," who do not think or look or believe like us. We fail in gratitude, fail to acknowledge our participation in corrupt systems, fail to trust that what we gain in you will satisfy us in ways that things of this world never can. Have mercy on us, Lord, restoring us to faith and the joy that comes with dining together at your eternal table.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: God, who calls all people to live in unity, hears our prayer. In the spirit of feasting and thanksgiving, receive the gift of forgiveness given to you in abundance.

People: **In gratitude for all we have gained in Christ Jesus, we celebrate God's mercy!
Hallelujah! Amen.**

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God most high.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Hymn #2267 "Taste and See"

Prayer After Communion

Announcements

Sending

*Closing Hymn #386 "O For a World" vs. 1-3, 5

*Benediction

Postlude "Hail Thee, Festival Day" Ralph Vaughan Williams

Feel free to stand, chat and generally share in Fellowship as the Postlude sends us out into the world in Love.

We welcome all who worship with us this day. May you experience God's presence and find inspiration for your journey of faith. This morning the leaders in worship are:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Pastor; **Heidi Thomas**, Interim Music Director;

Diane Ritzdorf, Liturgist; **Ryan Hodel**, Zoom Host