

# Everybody's Church



First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham

September 26, 2021, 8:30am, Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## Vision Statement

As Everybody's Church we commit ourselves to serving Christ by cultivating mission, inclusion and community.

## Inclusion Statement

As Everybody's Church we strive to be a faithful, open and inclusive community. We welcome the full participation of all people of any ability, gender identity, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or any other life circumstance.

## Gathering Around the Word

**PRELUDE** "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" Funderburk

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Rev. Bethany Peerbolte

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Psalm 124) Elizabeth Ngare,  
Seminary Intern

One: How have You made it this far?

**Many: The Lord has surely been by my side.**

One: But You have faced so much from the world.

**Many: With the Lord by my side the chaos has not overcome me.**

One: Oh blessed be God!

**ALL: God has never left us and for that, we bring our praise.  
Let us worship God!**

†**HYMN** 268 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

**CALL TO CONFESSION** Dr. John Judson

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, it is so nice to take it easy. We have used the commandment for Sabbath to justify complacency and contentment. When we encountered a fork in the road, we have chosen the path most taken instead of risking something hard for the sake of Your glory. Forgive us for staying the same when You have asked us to grow. We recommit ourselves to the hard parts in the name of Jesus...

## SILENT CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

†**OUR RESPONSE** 581 "Glory Be to the Father"

**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.**

†When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or in spirit.

Please join in reading those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

Hymntune: **DIADEMATA**

Confession acknowledges the reality of sin in our personal and corporate lives. This practice relieves us from the burden of sin and reminds us of the promise of God's forgiveness and grace sealed in our baptism.

This brief hymn of praise is an ancient text known as the Gloria Patri or "lesser doxology." We sing it to express thanksgiving for God's forgiveness.

## Proclaiming the Word

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: The Lord be with you!

Many: **And also with you!**

All: **Spirit who empowers us for God's will to be done, let this reading show us something we can take home; and do not shy away from asking us to take something hard to sit with this week. Guide us and help us, Amen.**

### FIRST TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 2:1-4

One: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

### PSALM 133

One: The Lord anoints and blesses, gives life forever more.

All: **The Lord anoints and blesses, gives life forever more.**

One: How good and pleasant it is when people dwell in unity! It is like fine oil upon the head, running down upon the beard.

All: **The Lord anoints and blesses, gives life forever more.**

One: How good and pleasant it is when people dwell in unity! It is like the oil on Aaron's beard running down to the collar of his robe.

All: **The Lord anoints and blesses, gives life forever more.**

One: How good and pleasant it is when people dwell in unity! It is like the dew of Hermon that falls on the hills of Zion.

All: **The Lord anoints and blesses, gives life forever more.**

### SECOND TESTAMENT LESSON

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

One: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

### SERMON

"Thy Will be Done: We Can Do Hard Things"

Rev. Bethany Peerbolte

### MEDITATION MUSIC "The Majesty and Glory of Your Name"

Fettke

Lara Alami, vocalist

## Sealing the Word

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

### THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: Why do we give thanks and praise before this Table?

People: **We give thanks for God's work of creation, liberation, and salvation.**

Please follow along with the reading on page 49 of the Old Testament in your Pew Bible.

Please follow along with the reading on page 621 of the Old Testament in your Pew Bible.

Leader: ... who forever sing to the glory of Your name.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, Heav - en and earth are  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, - ho -  
san - na in the high - est.

“Holy, Holy, Holy” Land of Rest, Words and Music: Richard T. Proulx ©1986, 2011 GIA Publications Inc.; Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-702958. All rights reserved.

*A prayer of thanksgiving for the ministry of Jesus, offered by the pastor.*

Leader: Why do we eat bread at this Table?

People: **On the night before He died, Jesus took bread. After giving thanks He broke it, gave it to His disciples, and said, “Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”**

Leader: Why do we drink from the cup at this Table?

People: **The same night Jesus took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.”**

Leader: What do we remember at this Table?

People: **We remember God’s gracious love for us, Christ’s death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit’s tender care for us.**

Leader: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*A prayer calling on the Holy Spirit, followed by prayers of thanksgiving, intercession, and supplication.*

All: **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.**

All that we have is a gift from God. In gratitude, we return a portion of those blessings to the work of God in the church.

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## Bearing and Following the Word into the World

†HYMN 341

“O God, Show Mercy to Us”

†BENEDICTION

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE

“Rondeau”

Mouret

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Andrew Herbruck, Director of Music Ministries, is playing the service.

The liturgist this morning is Elizabeth Ngare. Elizabeth was born and raised in Kenya – East Africa, and moved to the USA with her daughter Rachel and has been here for more than 10 years. Elizabeth has previously worked in the banking sector while in Kenya and works in the healthcare field here in Michigan. She has a Diploma in Urban Ministry and a Bachelor of Arts in Ministry. She is currently a student at Ecumenical Theological Seminary pursuing a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry and will be doing a one-year internship where she will further develop ministry practice skills for professional and personal growth as a pastor. She feels grateful and excited to be here at Everybody’s church under the leadership of Rev. Dr. John Judson waiting to see what God has in store for her through His goodness and faithfulness.

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HYMNTUNE: THAXTED

The service of worship concludes following the postlude. Please take this time to reflect on the day’s worship.