

³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”

Mark 9:35



Abington Presbyterian Church

September 19, 2021
10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship
17th Sunday after Pentecost

ORDER OF WORSHIP
17th Sunday after Pentecost September 19, 2021

GATHERING

The people gather wherever they may in response to God's call, offering praise in words of scripture, prayer, and song. The people acknowledge their sinfulness and receive the good news of God's forgiveness.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP *A time for quiet preparation before worship*

All wise and wonderful God, the whole creation looks to you for care. We are children of your creation, who need insight and empowerment. In worship, we bow with awe before your majesty and in trust before your peace. May this time of worship restore us to our place in your plans. Amen.

PRELUDE

Nun Danket Alle Gott

Johann Sebastian Bach

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Oh, let the waters come down,

and baptize us, once again.

Oh, let the waters come up,

and make our arid hearts bloom.

Oh, let the waters come out,

and soak our faces in tears.

Oh, let the waters come in,

and fill our thirsty souls.

Oh, let the waters come

and carry us to you, God-of-All.

*** HYMN 643**

Now Thank We All Our God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND SILENT PRAYER

We confess how much we are like those first disciples of Jesus, O God. Our cravings for more and more leave us running in circles. We do not plant ourselves in your peace and gentleness, so we reap harvests of chaos and discord. We have shied away from your call of loving service. Strengthen us and give us courage to truly be your disciples, rejoicing in the gracious call of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. We can rejoice in God's goodness and love -
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

* RESPONSE

Glory Be To the Father

Hymn #581

**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.**

* THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Greet one another with the sign of peace.

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

WORD

God's Word is read and its message is proclaimed in scripture, music and interpretation.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

James 3:13-4:3

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 9:30-37

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

What Do We Want?

The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(at points during the prayer, the congregation will have opportunity to sing/pray these words: **Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place. Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.**)

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

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;**

**the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

ORDINATION OF OFFICERS

THANKSGIVING & SENDING

*After the proclamation of God's Word, we respond with gratitude prepared to go
into the world where we are called to live according to God's will.*

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY

The Servant Song

David Schwoebel

*Hymn #727 (Will You Let Me Be Your Servant) is the basis of this choral setting focusing on Mark 9:35.
All are invited to join in singing the final hymn verse at the invitation of the director.*

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

If anyone would be first, they shall be the last of all, be the servant of all.

We are travelers on a journey, fellow pilgrims on the road;
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
I will hold the Christlight for you in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.
Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

If anyone would be first, they shall be the last of all, be the servant of all.

**All: I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.
When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together oof Christ's love and agony.**

* DOXOLOGY

Hymn 606

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

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* HYMN 320

The Church of Christ in Every Age

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

Wareham

Emma Lou Diemer

[some announcements follow]

Worship Leaders:

Preacher: The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

Liturgist: The Rev. Aaron Twitchell

Chancel Choir: John Sall, Director

Violin: Joan Paltenstein

Organ: Erik Meyer

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In need of special prayers this week: Len Browna, Sylvia Jolly, MM Harris, Herb Harris, Doris Boerner, Helen Porter (mother of Joe Porter), Janet Wells (mother of Gwen Bihn), Suzy Paravla (daughter of Susan Davis), Linda Maisenhelder, Christine Kim (wife of Stephen Kim), Will Pompilli (son of Teresa Pompilli), Wayne Gibbons, Jr., Susan Arnhold (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Kris and Erik Reidenbach (friends of Sally Adams), Judy Meissner, Nina DiTimasso and Audrina Rose (friends of Anne-Marie Constable), Barb Kelly, Susan Johnson, John and Phyllis Frazier, Robin Cupo, Laverne King & Terry Lodise (friends of Chris Ellis), Pamela Brockington (mother of Desiree' Trammell), Chuck Evans (friend of Tink McDevitt).

For Pastoral Care: To notify the church of an illness, hospitalization, death, or to request prayer, contact a minister or call your Deacon or the Church Office at (215) 887-4530.