

September 22, 2024
18th Sunday after Pentecost



Leading Worship Today:

Pastor: Brian Entz

Lay Leader: Kellie Johnson

Accompanist: Ralph Johansen

*Please read along with all **Bold** text*
*All are invited to stand when there is an **

Larger Print Hymns: Please see an usher if you would like a copy of larger print hymns.

Children's Bulletins: Please see an usher if you are interested in a children's bulletin.

PRELUDE

Psalm Prelude (set 1, no. 2)

Herbert Howells

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The mystery and art of living are as grand as the sweep of a lifetime and the lifetime of a species. And they are as close as beginning, quietly, to mine whatever grace and beauty, whatever healing and attentiveness, are possible in this moment and the next and the next one after that.

-Krista Tippett, Becoming Wise

GATHERING

CHORAL INTROIT

Praise to the Lord

arr. Johansen

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Psalms 123 and 124

To you I lift up my eyes,

to you enthroned in the heavens.

Blessed be God,

Our help is in the Name of God,

the maker of heaven and earth.

***OPENING HYMN**

#174 Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

The grace of God overflows for us through Christ Jesus who came into the world to save us from sin. Trusting in the grace of God, let us confess our sin.

Gracious and Holy God, we confess that we often abandon wisdom, both willfully and ignorantly. In our foolishness we turn from you and your ways, cause harm to our neighbors, and give in to the cravings that too often control our words and actions. Forgive us, O God, for the ways we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, in what we have done and in what we haven't done. By your mercy and love turn us once again towards your way of wisdom, Jesus Christ. Amen.

As water is poured into the font remember your baptism and that in these waters you are named as one of God's beloved and joined to Christ forever.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE**

#581 The 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.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Therefore, since we have been made righteous through Christ's faithfulness, we have peace with God. Let us also share peace with one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*The people may exchange with their neighbors, by words or gesture,
signs of peace and reconciliation.*

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of abundant life, your grace is our daily bread. Nourish us by your Word and fill us with your Spirit so that we may grow in faith, hope, and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Proverbs 31:10-31 (NRSV)

10A capable wife who can find?

She is far more precious than jewels.

11The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.

12She does him good, and not harm,
all the days of her life.

13She seeks wool and flax,
and works with willing hands.

14She is like the ships of the merchant,
she brings her food from far away.

15She rises while it is still night
and provides food for her household
and tasks for her servant-girls.

16She considers a field and buys it;
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

17She girds herself with strength,
and makes her arms strong.

18She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.
Her lamp does not go out at night.

19She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.
20She opens her hand to the poor,
and reaches out her hands to the needy.
21She is not afraid for her household when it snows,
for all her household are clothed in crimson.
22She makes herself coverings;
her clothing is fine linen and purple.
23Her husband is known in the city gates,
taking his seat among the elders of the land.
24She makes linen garments and sells them;
she supplies the merchant with sashes.
25Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs at the time to come.
26She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
27She looks well to the ways of her household,
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
28Her children rise up and call her happy;
her husband too, and he praises her:
29"Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all."
30Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
31Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 9:30-37 (NRSV)

30They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; 31for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." 32But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

33Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" 34But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. 35He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." 36Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 37"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

#307 God of Grace and God of Glory

NEW TESTAMENT READING

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a (NRSV)

13Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. 14But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. 15Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. 16For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. 17But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. 18And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

4:1Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? 2You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

7Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Rev. Brian Entz

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

Let the Children Come

Burrows

Waacheni Watoto Waje Kwangu (Swahili) Let the children come to me

Percussion: Sebastian Vanderheiden, Julian Vanderheiden

"Let us present ourselves to God as those who have been delivered from death to life."

To contribute to our mission and ministry online, please scan the QR code.



*DOXOLOGY

#606 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

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.

*OFFERING PRAYER

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to

hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We come before you O God in gratitude for your loving kindness and mercy. Continue to build up in us a great love for you and the whole of your creation and give us courage to follow in the way of Jesus your Son.

God of our salvation, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church...

Let us be a sign of your promised realm and make us ready to meet our Savior Christ when he comes again in glory. Strengthen us in our faith and give us courage to extend the mercy we have been shown to others.

God of our salvation, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world...

Make a way in the wilderness of this world. Bring justice and equality to every land and let all creatures know your saving love. Bring peace to every corner of the world, especially Ukraine and Russia, Israel/Palestine, Lebanon, and Sudan. Transform us and all your Church into peacemakers by the power of your Spirit. Help us to seek the common good of all your creation and remember that you have made us to share life with you and all you have made.

God of our salvation, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community...

Send messengers of your way among us to kindle in us a passion for what is right and cleanse us from all corruption. Strengthen us in times of difficulty and give us compassion for all our neighbors.

God of our salvation, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for loved ones...

Let your tender mercy shine on them. Enliven those who wait in the gloom of death's shadow and guide their feet onto the path of peace. Give healing and mercy to those in need, especially...

God of our salvation, **hear our prayer.**

Prepare your way in us, O Lord, that we may rejoice and be glad when your reign of glory comes; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray saying...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN

#767 Together We Serve

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Allegro maestoso e vivace

Felix Mendelssohn

Loving all People, Living our Faith, and Following Jesus

WORSHIP NOTES

All other liturgy comes/is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or is written in house.

Praise to the Lord Stralsund Gesangbuch (1665) arr. Ralph Johansen ©1992

#174 Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom | TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1993 | MUSIC: Donna Kasbohm, 1995 | Text © 1996 The Pilgrim PressMusic © 1997 The Pilgrim Press

#307 God of Grace and God of Glory | TEXT: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930, alt. | MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907 | Public domain

Let the Children Come Mark Burrows ©2017 Choirsters Guild

#767 Together We Serve | TEXT: Daniel Charles Damon, 1996 | MUSIC: Daniel Charles Damon, 1996 | Text © 1998 Hope Publishing CompanyMusic © 1998 Hope Publishing Company

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SIGN UP TODAY for the Apostles' Creed Sermon Series & Book Discussion: October 13th through November 17th. Books are \$12, to order **please sign up outside the office by Today!** There are two discussion groups that will be offered, either Wednesdays in person at 1pm or Sundays via Zoom at 7pm.

SPOT: Please join us on Tuesday, September 24, at 6:30 p.m. for our next SPOT session. During this session, we will explore different types of writing that you could use to enhance your spiritual life. There will be additional resources available to you describing other writing techniques that you may want to explore. Materials will be provided.

Love Inc Annual Fundraiser: On Friday, September 27, 2024 from 4pm to 8pm at Buffalo Covenant Church. Tickets are \$15 a person or \$25 for a couple/family. There will be a silent auction, dinner, and concert by Higher Call.

Changes in Medicare 2025: Join us on October 1st at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. This free educational seminar will address how Medicare is changing.

Free Community Spaghetti Supper: Join us on Saturday, October 5th from 4:30pm to 6pm. There is also a sign up sheet outside the office if you are interested in helping with food preparation, serving, and/or cleaning up.

How can we pray for you?

Along with the blue prayer request cards found in the pews you can also submit prayer requests on the BPC website. Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to be taken directly to the prayer request form. All prayer requests go directly to Pastor Brian.



BPC Prayer List:

- Lois Lindstrom
- Joel Aldrich
- Marquietta Shupe
- Theresa
- Madree
- Jim, Elaine Thole's brother, following a diagnosis
- Donna, a friend of Lana Kopplin, who has cancer
- Jill, the niece of Al DeBellis, who has terminal illness
- Kelly, daughter of Al DeBellis, who has cancer
- Gary, Chuck Klaassen's brother-in-law, was in a serious car crash
- Jonathon, a friend of Barb & Larry Janski
- Shannon, Virginia's former daughter-in-law
- Daniel Elliot
- Erva Hance
- Barb and Tom Stone
- Jan Brown, early morning Women of Faith
- Dennis Dietz, Virginia's friend
- Rochelle Tandrian, Angela's daughter
- Jimm and Jodie Underwood, Lanny & Shirley's son-in-law and daughter
- Brittany Daniels
- John and Charlotte Collins
- Janice Sorby
- George and Elaine Thole and family following Scott's death
- Tanya Jenson DeBellis and family following Al's death

For peace in Ukraine and Russia, Israel/Palestine, Congo, and around the world.

For our neighbor congregations in Buffalo and for the congregations of our presbytery.

Upcoming This Week

Today

9:30a Worship
10:30a CCC: Potential Rental of Space

Monday

7:00p AA

Tuesday

9:00a Crafty Ladies
9:00a Men's Breakfast at Forget Me Not Cafe
6:30p SPOT: Writing as a Spiritual Practice

Wednesday

7:00p Adult Choir

Thursday

7:30a People of Faith
10:00a Women of Faith
5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

9:30a Worship
10:30a CCC: Conversations to Go

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Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom 174



1 Come and seek the ways of Wis-dom, she who danced when
 2 Lis - ten to the voice of Wis-dom, cry - ing in the
 3 Sis - ter Wis - dom, come, as - sist us; nur - ture all who



earth was new. Fol - low close - ly what she teach - es,
 mar - ket-place. Hear the Word made flesh a - mong us,
 seek re - birth. Spir - it - guide and close com - pan - ion,



for her words are right and true. Wis - dom clears the
 full of glo - ry, truth, and grace. When the word takes
 bring to light our sa - cred worth. Free us to be -



path to jus - tice, show - ing us what love must do.
 root and rip - ens, peace and righ - teous - ness em - brace.
 come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

Drawing on numerous scriptural images of Wisdom (Greek: *Sophia*), especially in Proverbs, this text offers an alternative perspective on Trinitarian theology. The Wisdom tradition has played a role in Christian mysticism for centuries, as witnessed by the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul.

307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.

Together We Serve

767

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm7)
B \flat F Gm Dm7



1 To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love,
2 We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope,
3 We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor,
4 To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work,

(C) (G) (Am7) (Dsus) (D)
E \flat B \flat Cm7 Fsus F



in - vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast.
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
the bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care.
re - mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong.

(G) (D) (C) (Bm)
B \flat F E \flat Dm



We work and we pray through sor - row and joy,
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
We of - fer a home to those who will come,
To - geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth,

(G) (C) (G) (Am) (D7) (G)
B \flat E \flat B \flat Cm F7 B \flat



ex - tend - ing God's love to the last and the least.
un - til we see Christ in each per - son we meet.
our hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to dare.
re - mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.

The first three words of this text appear in the website address for First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo, California, for whose centennial the hymn was commissioned. The text draws on Ephesians 4:11-16, a passage describing the many gifts and ministries within the body of Christ.