“We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided.”

-J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2020

GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD

Prelude

Contemplation

Alec Rowley

Introit

Psalm 150

John Harper

Alleluia, praise God in his holy place, praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his powerful deeds, praise his surpassing greatness. O praise him with sound of trumpet, praise him with lute and harp. Praise him with timbrel and dance, praise him with strings and pipe. O praise him with resounding cymbals, praise him with clashing of cymbals. Let everything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord. Alleluia!

**Call to Worship** (responsively) based on Psalm 138
Leader: O Lord our God, we come together with songs of praise in our hearts, because of your unfailing love and faithfulness.
People: Even though we struggle with life’s issues, your mercy blesses us.
Leader: Listening God, we come together with prayers of thanks in our hearts, because you hear and answer our prayers.
People: Even though life is sometimes difficult, your strength blesses us.
Leader: Welcoming God, we come together in reverent worship filling our minds, because your faithful love endures forever.
People: Even though we are fragile people who sometimes feel lost and abandoned, God’s love blesses us and never changes.
All: Thanks and praise be to our glorious God for ever and ever.
Amen.

**Hymn**

To God Be the Glory

#634
1 To God be the glory; great things he has done!
2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;

who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
but purer and higher and greater will be

and opened the life-gate that all may go in.
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

This American gospel song became popular in England in the late 19th century, then returned to this country in the mid-20th century with the Billy Graham crusades. Its continuing popularity may well be due to the freedom from subjective considerations in its praise of God.
Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,

and give him the glory: great things he has done!
Prayer of Confession (unison)
We look for you in all the wrong places, God of the lost, and wonder why we cannot find you. We wander the corridors of power, while you are on the sidewalks, beside the homeless. We sit at the head tables of the world, while you are handing out soup to the hungry at the kitchen's backdoor. We applaud those who win the race, while you are cheering on those in last place. In forgiving us, God of new life, you would transform our cold hearts into those melted in service to others. In granting us mercy, you challenge us to think of all those we have ignored. In gifting us with grace, you enable us to proclaim Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, as the hope, the joy, the peace the world seeks.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon (responsively)
Leader: It's not money, but our generosity with it; it is not power, but our willingness to humble ourselves; it is not our efforts, but Christ's gift, which transforms us into God's children.
People: It is more than just how we think. In mercy and grace, our hearts, our lives, our spirits are transfigured and made new. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**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** (responsively)
Leader: Through faith in Christ, we are offered life in the Spirit.
People: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, and patience.
Leader: The fruit of the Spirit is kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
People: If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
Leader: The peace of Christ is alive and at work in this congregation. The peace of Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

**PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD**

Prayer of Illumination

Solo Love Not the World Arthur Sullivan
Corinne Wallace, soloist

*Love not the world, nor the things that are in the world; for the world passeth away, and the lust thereof. But he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.*

Scripture Lesson Romans 12:1-8
Leader: The word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon “Loving Community”
Pastoral Assistant Leslie Deslauriers, preaching

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

**Hymn** Great God of Every Blessing #694

**Affirmation of Faith** (unison) 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
Great God of Every Blessing

1 Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

2 Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace,
in death and life extending your covenant embrace.
In Christ we are one body; each member has a part:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

3 Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search,
transforming broken people into the holy church.
For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

Written for the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth, this text sums up his liturgical theology, ending each stanza with his motto: Cor meum tibi offero, Domine, prompte et sincere. By moving from plural to singular the stanzas show how corporate faith becomes personal piety.
catholic church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

**Anthem**   Forth in Your Name   Gilbert Martin

_Forth in your name, O Lord, I go, my daily labor to pursue; you, only you, resolved to know in all I think or see or speak or do. The task your wisdom has assigned, O let me cheerfully fulfill; in all my works your presence find, and prove your prudent, wise, and perfect will. You I would set at my right hand, whose eyes my inmost secrets view, and labor on at your command, and offer my ideas and thoughts to you. O God, for you may I employ whatever your bounteous grace has given; and run my course with even joy, and gratefully walk on with you to heaven. Amen!_

The Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer (“debts”)

_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_

**Prayer Response**   Hear Our Prayer, O Lord   Gordon Young

_Hear our prayer, O Lord. Incline Thine ear to us, and grant us Thy peace. Amen._

**BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**Hymn**   We Are One in the Spirit   #300

**The Charge and the Benediction**
We Are One in the Spirit
They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm) (Em)

1. We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
2. We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
3. We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
4. All praise to the Father from whom all things come,
   (Am) (Em) (Fm)
   we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
   we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,
   we will work with each other; we will work side by side,
   and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
   (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Fm)
   and we pray that all unity may one day be restored.
   and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
   and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:
   and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:

Refrain

(C) (Em) (Fm)
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our

(Am) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Am/E) (Em)
(Bm) Fm Bm Cm Fm Bm/F Fm
love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.

**Benediction**
An Irish Blessing
William Witherup

*May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be ever at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, and the rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

Postlude
Intrada
Grayston Ives

**Thanks to Those Assisting in Our Service**
Liturgist Ozzie Kinnard

**OUR MISSION AND VISION**

**Mission Statement:** We are a diverse and inclusive community bringing people to Christ through the power of service, education, hospitality and compassion.

**Vision Statement:** Second Presbyterian Church seeks to be a diverse, vibrant and passionate Christ-centered community of hospitality and outreach actively serving the South Loop, the city of Chicago, and the world. We accomplish this through inspirational worship in our historic sanctuary, educational ministry to all ages, and the power of compassionate service to our neighbors.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Worship**

Welcome to Second Presbyterian Church. All are welcome regardless of ethnicity, economic group or sexual orientation to share together in the joy and power of God’s love in Jesus Christ.

Worship is live-streamed on our website [www.2ndpresbyterian.org](http://www.2ndpresbyterian.org) each Sunday morning. Join us at 10:55 a.m. for the worship. Copies of sermons and bulletins will be mailed and emailed to all who request them.
Today, our guest alto is Corinne Wallace.

The Facilities Committee recently installed a new audiovisual system that will help us record and broadcast worship services, weddings and other concerts at a high quality level. These items include multiple cameras, microphones, laptop, recorder and tech support which will cost $12,000.00. We ask members and friends of the church to make a one-time gift to underwrite this huge offering for all who will watch our services in the years to come.

If pastoral care needs arise, please contact the church office at (312) 225-4951. Pastor Neff and Pastoral Assistant Deslauriers are available for pastoral counseling and prayer.

The devotional booklet “These Days” for July, August and September is available in the church office. For your copy, please call the church office.

The work of the church is critical in this time of crisis. Our ministry continues to grow in creative and innovative ways. Please take a moment to go online to 2ndpresbyterian.org and give, or write out your check and send it in to Second Presbyterian Church, 1936 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL. 60616. Your gifts continue the mission and work of the Lord in this time and place.

We are still taking prayer requests but now you can submit them by clicking this link https://forms.gle/72RzSMc9tAA7y5st8 so that we can pray with you and for you. All prayer requests will go to Pastor Neff, Pastoral Assistant Leslie and our Office Administrator Ashley. There is an option to mark whether or not your prayer is private.

**Educational Opportunities**

Every second Sunday of the month, Pastoral Assistant Leslie leads a Virtual Covid Support group at 1:30 p.m. This will be a time for folks to
come and talk about their struggles with what Covid has brought to their life: frontline workers, those who lost their jobs, those who have had Covid and had to self-quarantine or ended up in the hospital, those who have lost family members, those who are struggling with the lack of socialization. This is a time for you to come and share your thoughts and feelings and be supported. The next meeting will be September 13th. Here is the Zoom information:

**Join Zoom Meeting:**
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83629751318?pwd=aFR4WkYwcjMvUmlIb1FNaHkyNnZLdz09
Meeting ID: 836 2975 1318
Password: 673212
One tap mobile: 
+13126266799,,83629751318#,,1# ,673212# US (Chicago)

**BIBLE STUDIES:**

We will be using phone calls for bible studies and Zoom for other groups. For bible studies, use the number below.
New Conference Call number: **312-248-0036.** No PIN required.
- **Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m.**
- **Tuesday First Corinthians 1:30 p.m.**

**Alpha to Omega Bible Discussion Group:** monthly on the second and fourth Thursdays. New Conference Call number: **312-248-0036.** No PIN required. For more information, please contact Flea Parker at flea@golden2.net or (210) 861-6988.

**THURSDAY CIRCLE OF PRAYER 12:00 P.M.:**

The Circle of Prayer continues each Thursday at 12:00 p.m. Led by Marian Liataud and Pastor Neff, each prayer circle lasts 20-30 minutes only. Please join us by going to the Zoom meeting or call in the phone number every Thursday.
Join Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85698754180?pwd=djVBBg8zWnRXcW5YdVJKdmdkNDNytUT09

One tap mobile:
+13126266799,,85698754180#,,,,0#,,526638# US (Chicago)
+13017158592,,85698754180#,,,,0#,,526638# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location:
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 856 9875 4180
Passcode: 526638
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbCixyKXz

RIM (Recreation and Interest Ministries) Committee

RIM (Recreation and Interest Ministries) Committee: The RIM committee is in the process of developing a group trip to explore the Civil Rights Monuments and Museums in the Montgomery and Selma, Alabama areas. We are excited to share the following information with you in the hopes that you will wish to participate. Based on current health circumstances we cannot set a specific time yet but we are looking at Spring/Fall 2021. Please express your interest in the Civil Rights Trip to the RIM Committee by emailing to trips.2ndpreschicago@gmail.com. We will keep you updated as further information can be developed.

WHAT: 2nd Presbyterian Civil Rights Trip Fly to Birmingham, Alabama. Travel by CHARTERED BUS to Montgomery & Selma. Visit the Peace & Justice Museum, Dexter Baptist Church, Selma Bridge and other museums & highlights as time allows. Led by a Civil Rights expert.
WHO: 20-30 2nd Presbyterian congregants (and friends as space allows)
WHEN: 4 days & 3 nights, spring or fall 2021 as circumstances allow.
WHERE: Hotel in downtown Montgomery, AL.
COST: Estimated $800 - $1,000 including flight.
**Movie Group:** We will be discussing *Just Mercy* on Friday, August 28th at 6:30 p.m. It tells the true story of Walter McMillian, who, with the help of young defense attorney Bryan Stevenson, appeals his murder conviction. Each person will watch the movie on their own and then we will gather on Zoom to discuss it. The movie is streaming free on Amazon Prime and other platforms. This event is brought to you by the RIM committee.

**Join Zoom Meeting:**
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87830257932?pwd=alNtMUh6eFpNNlpopWZ0WF1DRTNodz09

**Time:** August 28th, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Central Time (US and Canada)
**Meeting ID:** 878 3025 7932
**Password:** 602018

**One tap mobile:**
+13017158592,,87830257932#,,1#,602018# US (Germantown)
+13126266799,,87830257932#,,1#,602018# US (Chicago)

**Dial by your location:**
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

**Find your local number:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kd6iBD5qb](https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kd6iBD5qb)

**Book Group:** Our next book of discussion is *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdich. This will take place via Zoom on September 20th at 9:30 a.m. Please email Ann Belletire if you would like to join this very lively discussion group at annabelle620e@aol.com.

**Join Zoom Meeting:**
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82595103879

**Meeting ID:** 825 9510 3879

**One tap mobile:**
+13017158592,,82595103879# US (Germantown)
+13126266799,,82595103879# US (Chicago)

**Dial by your location:**
Support Our Mission and Ministry

You may now give your offering on the Second Presbyterian Church website at www.2ndpresbyterian.org. Look for the “Donate” button and scroll down, following the prompts. Thank you for your faithful giving!

Connect with Us

Dr. Neff’s sermons, poetry and reflections on ministry can be found in his blog: www.davidneff.me. To obtain copies of sermons for our Pastoral Assistant Leslie Deslauriers, please go to her blog lesliefollowsgodthroughchicago.blogspot.com.
**The Session**
Reverend Dr. David M. Neff, Pastor
Darlene Pollard, Clerk

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**The Board of Deacons**
Jane Tiffen President
Jeremy Nichols, Secretary

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**Church Staff**
Reverend Dr. David M. Neff, Pastor
Leslie Deslauriers, Pastoral Assistant
Michael Shawgo, Music Director
Ashley McLean, Office Administrator
Marco Alberto, Sexton

**Second Presbyterian Quartet Choir**
Sherry Watkins, soprano
Steven Michael Patrick, tenor

**SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO**


www.2ndpresbyterian.org
1936 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL. 60616