



*Where
mercy, love,
and pity
dwell, there
God is
dwelling
too.*

-William Blake

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2020

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

Prelude

Sicilienne

Maria von Paradis

Introit

Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent Reigneth

Eric Thiman

****Call to Worship** (responsively)

Leader: Let us worship the eternal God, the source of love and life, who creates us. Let us worship Jesus Christ, the risen one, who lives among us. Let us worship the Spirit, the holy fire, who renews us. To the one true God be praise in all times and places, through the grace of Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

****Hymn**

God Is Here!

#409

Prayer of Confession (responsively)

Leader: Holy and merciful God, we confess that too often we bend to the will of others instead of to your will. Forgive us, Lord. We confess that there are times where we see the path you have laid before us and we choose the other path instead. Forgive us, Lord. We confess that we let outside voices and influences silence your voice. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to live our lives, guided by your wisdom, driven by your compassion and mercy, as we work to heal the world that was created for us. We lift up all of these prayers, in Jesus' precious name.

People: Amen.

Silent Confession

God Is Here!

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an

of - fer praise and prayer, may we find in
 life - long need of grace; here are ta - ble,
 Shep - herd's flock and fold; here as bread and
 age of change and doubt keep us faith - ful

full - er mea - sure what it is in Christ we share.
 font, and pul - pit; here the cross has cen - tral place.
 wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.
 to the gos - pel; help us work your pur - pose out.

Commissioned for the dedication of a renovated worship space in Austin, Texas, this text is one of the few to devote attention to how customary church features facilitate worship. The tune was composed in wartime Britain to replace a Haydn tune tainted by Nazi associations.

Here, as in the world a - round us, all our
 Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here in
 Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in
 Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we

var - ied skills and arts wait the com - ing
 si - lence, as in speech, here, in new - ness
 wor - ship to ex - plore what it means in
 have to give, re - ceive: we, who can - not

of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Declaration of Pardon (responsively)

Leader: The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God.

****Gloria Patri** (sung by Quartet only)

#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.

Receiving the Peace of Christ (responsively)

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

Leader: God was in Christ reconciling the world to Godself, not counting our sins against us. God has entrusted us with the message of reconciliation. We are ambassadors for Christ; God makes God's appeal through us. Receive the peace of Christ and live in harmony with all!

People: Amen.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination

Duet

Love Divine, All Love Excelling

John Stainer

Sherry Watkins and John Concepcion, soloists

Love Divine! All love excelling, joy of Heaven to earth come down, fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown. Jesu! Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art; visit us with Thy salvation, enter every trembling heart. Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all Thy grace receive, hasten to return and never, nevermore Thy temple leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above; pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect Love.

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 21:23-32

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“Have Mercy”

Leslie Deslauriers, Pastoral Assistant preaching

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

****Hymn**

There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

#435

****Affirmation of Faith (Quartet only)**

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.

Welcome and Announcements

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness
 2 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures

of the sea. There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice,
 of the mind. And the heart of the E - ter - nal

which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's
 is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more

sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
 faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -

where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
 flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

Anthem O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus Gilbert Martin
O the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free; rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me! Underneath me, all around me, is the current of his love, leading onward, leading homeward to that glorious rest above! O the deep, deep love of Jesus, spread his praise from shore to shore; He who loves us, ever loves us, changes never, nevermore! He who died to save his loved ones, intercedes for them above; He who called them his own people, watches over them in love. O the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the best; Vast the ocean of his blessing, sweet the haven of his rest! O the deep, deep love of Jesus--for my heaven of heavens is he; This my everlasting glory--Jesus' mighty love for me! 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 Danish Amen Byrd, arr. Richard Proulx

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

****Hymn** Now Thank We All Our God #643

****The Charge and the Benediction**

****Benediction** O Holy Jesus Jonathan Willcocks
O holy Jesus, most merciful Redeemer, may I know Thee more clearly, love Thee more dearly, and follow Thee more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Postlude Toccata Pontificale Gordon Young

643 Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
 2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,

who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
 to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:

who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 the God who was, and is, and shall be ever more.

Although this hymn is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648). These words have been associated with this tune since the mid-17th century.

Thanks to Those Assisting in Our Service

Liturgists

Pastor David Neff and Brian Louis

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.

Keep worship safe! As we join in responsive and unison prayers, please utter your words with restraint. As you join in singing, we ask you to sing quietly to yourself. When you greet each other, please maintain social distancing. Protecting others protects us all.

Worship is live-streamed on our website 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.

We are near our goal of funding our new Audio-Visual Equipment. This new ministry enables our church to reach out and provide worship to

hundreds of people. Please submit your gift today! Send your check or give your donation online through our secure website at www.2ndpresbyterian.org.

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.

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.

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 Second 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.

RIM (Recreation and Interest Ministries) Committee

Book Group: Our next book of discussion is King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa by Adam Hochschild. This will take place both in person and via Zoom on October 18th at 9:30 a.m. In person, we will space ourselves in Fellowship Hall, wear masks and follow all church protocols. Others can join in via Zoom.

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:

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Dial by your location:

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdP1wkKWdw>

Support Our Mission and Ministry

The work of the church is critical in this time of crisis. Our ministry continues to grow in creative and innovative ways. 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!

General

2020 Virtual Chicago CROP Hunger Walk: Pick a date by October 18th to walk or run, indoors or out in your neighborhood, on as short or long a route whenever, whatever, or with whomever you decide. Take pictures, share your experience (#chicagocrop2020), and dial in to a virtual post-walk celebration on the 18th.

Second Presbyterian is a recipient of funds raised from the Walk and team has been set up.

Register at www.crophungerwalk.org/ChicagoIL to join the team.

- The first 100 walkers to register on-line will receive a \$38 matching gift donation to jumpstart their fundraising efforts

- Every registered Walker receives a CROP Walk face mask
- Invite friends, family and neighbors to join you. Everyone who raises over \$100 will receive a vintage Walk t-shirt

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

PRAYER REQUESTS (please pray for the following)

Francine Oliver – joy and understanding with Christ; Anthony and Edna

Ann and Mike Belletire – Bill and Linda Lilly

Lee Jenkins – Healing for all suffering with covid-19

Nate Battle – Elaine; Sandy; Vernon; Nate; leadership for our country

The Session

Reverend Dr. David M. Neff, Pastor
Darlene Pollard, Clerk

2020

Eric Annafi

Lisa Henry-Reid

Dr. Argie Johnson

2021

Dr. Cliff Crawford

Anthony Ochiabutor

Vicki Reynolds

2022

Darlene Pollard

Howard Tiffen

Amy Haack

The Board of Deacons

Jane Tiffen President
Jeremy Nichols, Secretary

2020

Nate Battle

Barbara Crawford

Mary Tibbs

2021

Denise Conway

Catherine Soberekon

2022

Jeremy Nichols

Francis Osazuwa

Jane Tiffen

Church Staff

Reverend Dr. David M. Neff, Pastor
Leslie Deslauriers, Pastoral Assistant
Michael Shawgo, Music Director
Ashley McLean, Office Administrator
Marco Alberto, Sexton
Brian Louis, Seminarian

Second Presbyterian Quartet Choir

Sherry Watkins, soprano
Corinne Wallace-Crane, alto

John Concepcion, tenor
Vince Wallace, bass



SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

Diverse. Inclusive. Community. Engaging. Passionate.

www.2ndpresbyterian.org

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