

PARK HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

23rd Sunday After Pentecost
November 5, 2023

“Servant Leadership”
Rev. Carl McCormack

Psalm 43
Joshua 3:7-17
Matthew 23:1-12

23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 5, 2023

3520 JFK Blvd. North Little Rock, AR 72116

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Visit our website at parkhillpres.org

WORSHIP NOTES

Order of Worship

Our order of worship is Reformed and follows centuries of tradition. These are some brief explanations of the various parts of Reformed Worship.

Call to Worship

The “call” expresses God’s invitation to gather as Christ’s body in this place.

Song of Praise

Together we express vocally our praise and thanksgiving to the God of Glory.

Prayer of Confession

Having praised the holiness of God, we must also face the sinful state of the world and of our lives, confessing our unworthiness to enter into God’s presence. Nevertheless we approach God with confidence, trusting in the mercy of Jesus Christ. This is one of the hallmarks of the Reformed tradition.

Welcome & Announcements Cindy Witherspoon Allen

Welcome from the Pastor

Prelude

Call to Worship Cindy Witherspoon Allen

O send out your light and your truth, O Lord.

Let them lead me to your holy hill and to your dwelling place.

Then I will go to the altar of God, to the God of my exceeding joy.

I will praise you with the harp, O God.

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

Hope in God, for I shall again praise the Lord, my help and my God.

*Opening Prayer (Unison) Cindy Witherspoon Allen

Lead us, O God, by your light and your truth. You are our hope and refuge. Focus our hearts on your word this day, that we may worship you in honesty, joy, and hope. Amen.

*Opening Song of Praise #310 “I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”

Call To Confession Cindy Witherspoon Allen

Prayer of Confession (Unison) Cindy Witherspoon Allen

Gracious God, through Christ you showed us the way of love and compassion. You call us to let go of all division and disunity so that in you we may be made one. But we confess that we do not follow your ways. We find all sorts of reasons to criticize and complain about others, failing to look upon them with your eyes of love. We find reasons to judge others for the very things we are guilty of ourselves. We find reasons to turn a blind eye when others need our support, and we even turn our backs on those in need. Help us to be a people of unity and love who care for each other in the power of your Spirit, and who let others care for us with your love. Hear now our silent prayers lifted up to you in the name of Christ Jesus...

Assurance of Pardon

A declaration of forgiveness proclaims the good news of God’s mercy and offers the assurance of pardon in Jesus’ name. Hearing the words of assurance spoken from the font connects our confession with the grace and cleansing of Baptism, and God’s call to a new way of life in Christ.

Gloria Patri

“Glory to the Father!” This is our response of praise for being forgiven.

Passing the Peace

Our sharing the peace with one another is a sign of reconciliation in Christ.

Prayer for Illumination

A prayer for illumination calls on the Holy Spirit to empower our reading, understanding, proclaiming, and living of God’s Word.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, proclaim with me the glorious news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Gloria Patri

#581

*Passing the “Peace of Christ”

Prayer for Illumination (Unison)

Cindy Allen

God of light, whose Spirit shaped the sun and scattered the stars, shine your light upon your Word, that we may see your truth and follow your way; for the sake of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Cindy Witherspoon Allen

Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause
against an ungodly people;
from those who are deceitful and unjust
deliver me!

For you are the God in whom I take refuge;
why have you cast me off?

Why must I walk about mournfully
because of the oppression of the enemy?

O send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;

let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling.

Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy;
and I will praise you with the harp,
O God, my God.

Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Rev. Carl McCormack

Scripture & Sermon

The Scriptures bear witness to the Word of God, revealed most fully in Jesus Christ, the Word of God, who “...became flesh and lived among us...” The role of the worshiper is to listen prayerfully, actively, and attentively to the Word that is read and proclaimed.

Second Scripture Reading Joshua 3:7-17 Rev. Carl McCormack

The LORD said to Joshua, “This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so that they may know that I will be with you as I was with Moses. You are the one who shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, ‘When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.’ ” Joshua then said to the Israelites, “Draw near and hear the words of the LORD your God.” Joshua said, “By this you shall know that among you is the living God who without fail will drive out from before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites: the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is going to pass before you into the Jordan. So now select twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. When the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan flowing from above shall be cut off; they shall stand in a single heap.” When the people set out from their tents to cross over the Jordan, the priests bearing the ark of the covenant were in front of the people. Now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest. So when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the edge of the water, the waters flowing from above stood still, rising up in a single heap far off at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, while those flowing toward the sea of the Arabah, the Dead Sea, were wholly cut off. Then the people crossed over opposite Jericho. While all Israel were crossing over on dry ground, the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, until the entire nation finished crossing over the Jordan.

Gospel Reading Matthew 23:1-12 Rev. Carl McCormack

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven.

Responding to the Word proclaimed, we affirm *our* faith in the holy, triune God..

Christian life is an offering of one's self to God. As those who have been claimed and set free by his grace, we respond with gratitude, offering him our lives, our spiritual gifts, and our material goods, followed with a song of praise.

When we gather at the
Lord's Supper the Spirit
draws us into Christ's
presence and unites
with the Church in
every time and place.

This morning,
communion will be
served as the
congregation remains
seated. You may take
the bread and cup when
you receive them or
wait and hold each one
until we take them
together. Christ said,
“Do this and remember
me.”

Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

The Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon “*”Servant Leadership”* Rev. Carl McCormack

***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 of 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.

***universal church**

*Song of Affirmation #738 “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

Prayers of the People

Stewardship Moment

Offering/Offertory

*Doxology #606

***Prayer of Dedication**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
 Invitation to the Table
 Great Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer
 The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
 Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We are blessed in order
to be a blessing to
others. The charge calls
the church to go forth
as agents of God's
mission in the world.

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.

Words of Institution

Serving the People of God

Prayer after Communion

Closing Song of Dedication #187
 “Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us”

Charge & Benediction

Prelude

Assisting in Worship:
Pastor Carl McCormick
Cindy Witherspoon Allen, as Liturgist
Cindy Witherspoon-Allen, as Greeter
Kaye & Bill Lowe, Ushers
Jo Murry, as Pianist

Clerk of Session/Personnel: Deb Mathis
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost—November 5, 2023 **Celebrating Communion Sunday**

Daylight Savings Time Ends

9:45am—Pastor Carl—the Bible in 90 Days—Parlor

11am—Worship Service—Pastor Carl McCormack

Monday, November 6, 2023

10:30am—Monday Morning Prayer Group—Conference Room

6:30pm—AR Scottish Dance Society

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

10am—Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

4:30—Handbell Choir

Friday, November 10, 2023

7pm—AR Country Dance Society

Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost—November 12, 2023

9:45am—Pastor Carl—the Bible in 90 Days—Parlor

11am—Worship Service—Pastor Carl McCormack

PRAYER NOTES—

Recent: Rochelle Greenwood, Ann McCollum, Jack McCollum, Diana McCray, Elizabeth Pollard, LaVonne Smith

Continued Prayers: Patt Bond, Pat Clark, Donna Ellis, Bill Jones, Ginny Jones, Jesse Macom-Teague, Grady Nixon, Wendell Phillips,

Prayers For Friends Of The Church: Air Force SMSGT Scott Burris (Phil & Liz Terrell's son), while he is deployed to Kuwait for 6 months), Dana Chadwick, Lynn Chadwick, Charles Clark, Darnell Clark, Jeff Connor, Maisie Frisby (Howdy & Debbie Frisby's granddaughter), Susan Gibbes; Constance Hughes, Travis Kasper, Evie Mickle, Barbara Monroe, Stephanie Phillips, Jennifer Willen,

Prayers For Those In Home Confinement: John Atterbury, Ann Cother, Bunn Falls (Johnson County Health & Rehab), Clarksville, Steve Pollard (AR State VA Home), David Rennie, Ann Woods.

Prayers For Those In Grief: For those who are still mourning the loss of a loved one.

*Please contact the church office if you need someone placed on or taken off the prayer notes. Thank you.