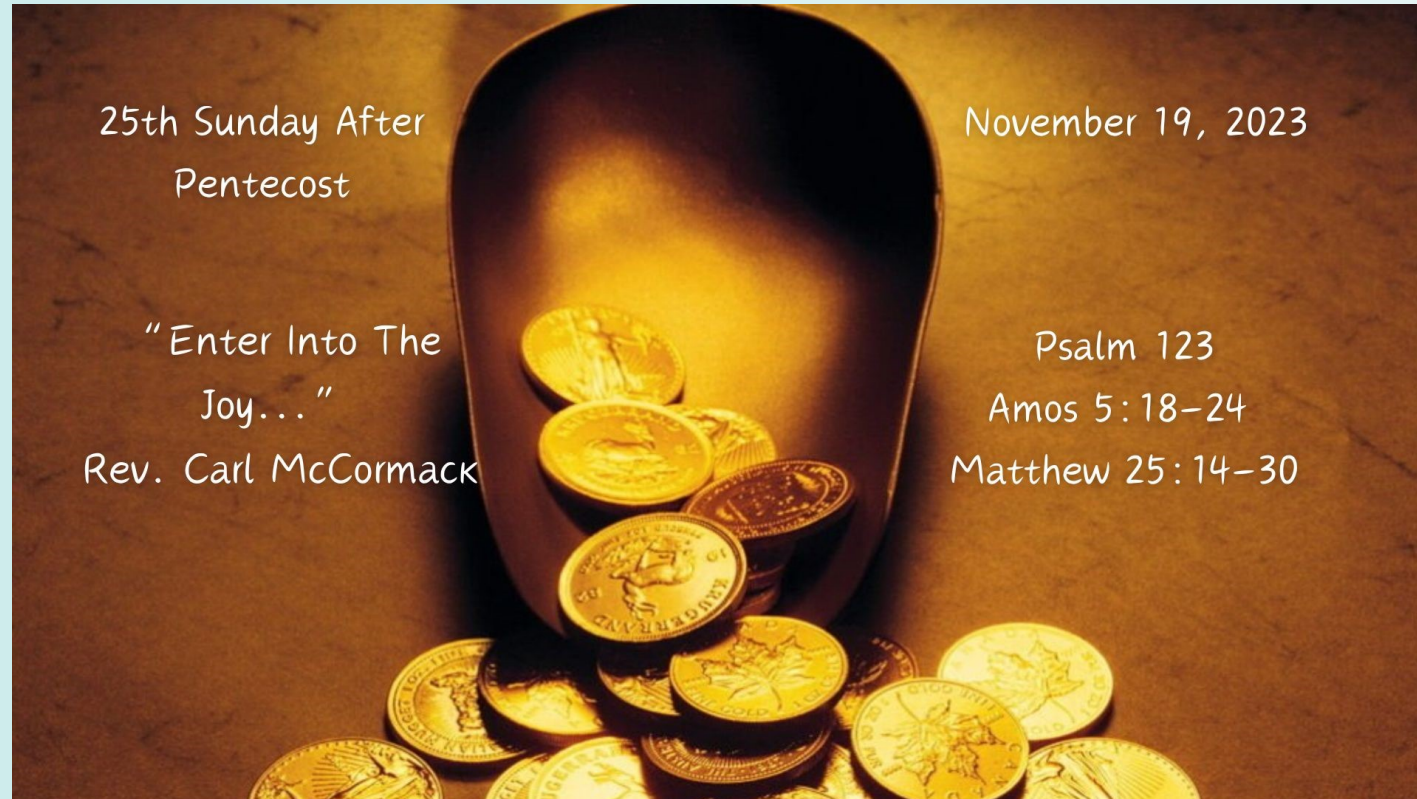


PARK HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 19, 2023

3520 JFK Blvd. North Little Rock, AR 72116

501-753-9533; parkhillpres@gmail.com

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.

We Gather At God's Invitation

Welcome & Announcements Cindy Witherspoon Allen

Welcome from the Pastor

Prelude

*Call to Worship Cindy Witherspoon Allen

Give Thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Keep silence before the Lord God!

The day of the Lord is at hand.

Together, let us worship God.

*Opening Prayer (Unison) Cindy Witherspoon Allen

O God, the gift of your son is the life-changing treasure that is truly beyond all value. Your generosity and goodness astound us! Inspire us to teach your commandments and share your gospel, that all may enter into the joy of Christ. Amen.

*Opening Song of Praise #37 "Let All Things Now Living"

Call To Confession Cindy Witherspoon Allen

Prayer of Confession (Unison) Cindy Witherspoon Allen

Merciful God, you have given us so much – all we have needed, your hand has provided. You have entrusted us with skills, abilities, and talents with the intention that we use them to your glory, but we have failed. We have failed to step out of our comfort zone and risk living a life that witnesses to your grace. It is as if we keep your gifts buried so no one will notice. Forgive our selfish ways, and by your Spirit enable us to gladly serve you by serving others; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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
Rev. Carl McCormack
Friends, believe and proclaim with me the glorious news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Gloria Patri #581

*Sharing the “Peace of Christ”

Prayer for Illumination (Unison) Cindy Witherspoon Allen
Come, Holy Spirit, open our minds and hearts this day, that we may be illumined by your living Word and walk together as children of light. Amen.

First Scripture Reading Psalm 123 Cindy Allen

To you I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
As the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maid
to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the LORD our God,
until he has mercy upon us.
Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us,
for we have had more than enough of contempt.
Our soul has had more than its fill
of the scorn of those who are at ease,
of the contempt of the proud

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Scripture Reading Amos 5:18-24
Rev. Carl McCormack

Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake.

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.

Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Gospel Reading Matthew 25:14-30 Rev. Carl McCormack
“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ is master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?’

Affirmation of Faith

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

Offering & Doxology

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.

Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

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

Sermon *“Enter Into The Joy...”* Rev. Carl McCormack

*Affirmation of Faith
We believe in God, maker of all things, provider of all things, who loves all people. We follow Jesus, in whom salvation has come to us: he sees us for who we are, heals the wounds of our hearts, and makes us new. In his death and resurrection, we see the deepest truth of life. We live by the power of the Holy Spirit, which empowers us for self-giving love. We give thanks for the Church, the Body of Christ, and for the gift of forgiveness, the power of resurrection and the mystery of eternal life. Amen.

*Song of Affirmation #336 “We Gather Together”

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer
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.

Stewardship Moment

Offering/Offertory

Charge & Benediction

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.

Doxology #606

Prayer of Dedication

*Song of Joyful Dedication #39 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Charge & Benediction

Postlude

Assisting in Worship:
Pastor Carl McCormick
Cindy Witherspoon Allen, as Liturgist
Cindy Witherspoon-Allen, as Greeter
Jennie & Dana Pierce, Ushers
Jo Murry, as Pianist

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost—November 19, 2023

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

11am—Worship Service—Pastor Carl McCormack
Session Meeting—Parlor

Monday, November 20, 2023

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

11:30am—Worship Committee Meeting

6:30pm—AR Scottish Dance Society

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

10:30am—Caregivers Meeting

Wednesday, November 22, 2023

4:30—Handbell Choir

Thursday –Friday, November 23-24, 2023

Church Closed

Christ The King Reign—November 26, 2023

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

11am—Worship Service—Pastor Carl McCormack

PRAYER NOTES—

Recent: Howdy Frisby, Rochelle Greenwood, Ann McCollum, Jack McCollum, Diana McCray, Robert (Bob) Miller (Elsie & Dick Blankenbeker's son-in-law), Elizabeth Pollard,

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: Judy Barfield, 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, Stephanie Phillips, Dee Pizzalato (Bill Bond's niece), Ralph Pollard (Barbara Biedenharn's brother), 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.

In Deepest Sympathy—Please continue to pray for the family of LaVonne Smith, who passed away on Monday, November 6, 2023.

Please pray for the family of Barbara Monroe who passed away recently. Her funeral will be November 19th, at First Presbyterian Church, in Jacksonville.

Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort; Deal graciously with those who mourn, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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