



July 23, 2023
Eighth Sunday
After Pentecost

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Genesis 28:10-19a
Matthew 28:18-20

"Stairway To
Heaven"
Pastor Carl
McCormack

PARK HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Welcome & Announcements

Liturgist

Welcome from the Pastor

Prelude

Dr. Matt Butler

*Call to Worship (from Psalm 139)

Russ Mathis

"God has searched us and known us. God knows when we sit down and when we rise up.

God discerns our thoughts from far away and is acquainted with all our ways.

Such knowledge is too vast and wonderful"

God knows us deeply and loves us endlessly.

Let us lift up our voices in praise of God.

*Opening Prayer (Unison)

Russ Mathis

O God, our great redeemer, enable us to see your activity among us, that even as we live in a world filled with anxiety and fear, we might live with the assurance of your abundant promise of protection and grace, and the promise that you will neither leave us nor forsake us; for the sake of Christ our Savior. Amen.

*Opening Song of Praise

#305

"Come Sing, O Church, In Joy"

Call to Confession (from 1 John 1:8)

Russ Mathis

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Help us, O God: we do not know how to pray as we ought. We are accustomed to hiding our faults; we scarcely know them well enough to confess them to you. Forgive our dimness of vision, our lack of compassion, our failures to remember and appreciate your wonderful works of faithfulness and mercy. Make us patient in our trials, confident of your love, and joyful in your presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (a time of silent prayers)

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, proclaim with me the good new 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)

Russ Mathis

Illumine us, O God. Bless us with ears to hear your truth, vision to discern your path, and feet ready to move into action, responding to

**your call. Guide us and inspire us in this moment of proclamation.
Amen.**

First Scripture Reading Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 Russ Mathis
O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,” even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you. Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Second Scripture Reading Genesis 28:10-19a Pastor Carl
Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, “I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to

the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Gospel Reading Matthew 28:18-20 Pastor Carl McCormack
And Jesus came and said to them, “**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.**”

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

Sermon “*Stairway to Heaven*” Pastor Carl

*Affirmation of Faith

We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond

*Song of Affirmation #450 “Be Thou My Vision”

Prayers of the People & 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

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Song of Dedication #838 “Standing On The Promises”

*Charge & Benediction

*Postlude

SESSION MEMBERS

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost—July 23, 2023

9:45am—Fellowship Class

11am—Worship Service

Pastor Carl McCormack

Monday, July 24, 2023

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

6:30pm—Arkansas Scottish Dance Society—Steen Hall

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

10am—Book Club

6pm—50 Plus Fellowship Group

Thursday, July 27, 2023

10:30am—”Taste & See Bible Study—Carol Clark
Parlor

Friday, July 28, 2023

7pm Arkansas Country Dance Society—Steen Hall

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost—July 30, 2023

9:45am—Fellowship Class

11am—Worship Service

Pastor Carl McCormack



- PRAYER NOTES -

Recent: Diana McCray, Phil Terrell

Continued Prayers: Patt Bond, Pat Clark, Donna Ellis, Rochelle Greenwood, Bill Jones, Ginny Jones, Jesse Macon-Teague, Ann McCollum, Jack McCollum, Judy Peters, Wendell Phillips, LaVonne Smith

Prayers For Friends Of The Church: Charles Clark, Darnell Clark, Harry Clark, Ralph Doty, Constance Hughes, Travis Kasper, Terri McMaster, Shirley Norton, Courtney Phaup, Stephanie Phillips, Elizabeth Pollard, Norma Smith, Abbey White

Prayers For Those In Home Confinement: John Atterbury, Ann Cother, Bunn Falls (Johnson County Health & Rehab), Clarksville, LeMoyne Jones (AR State Veterans Home), 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.