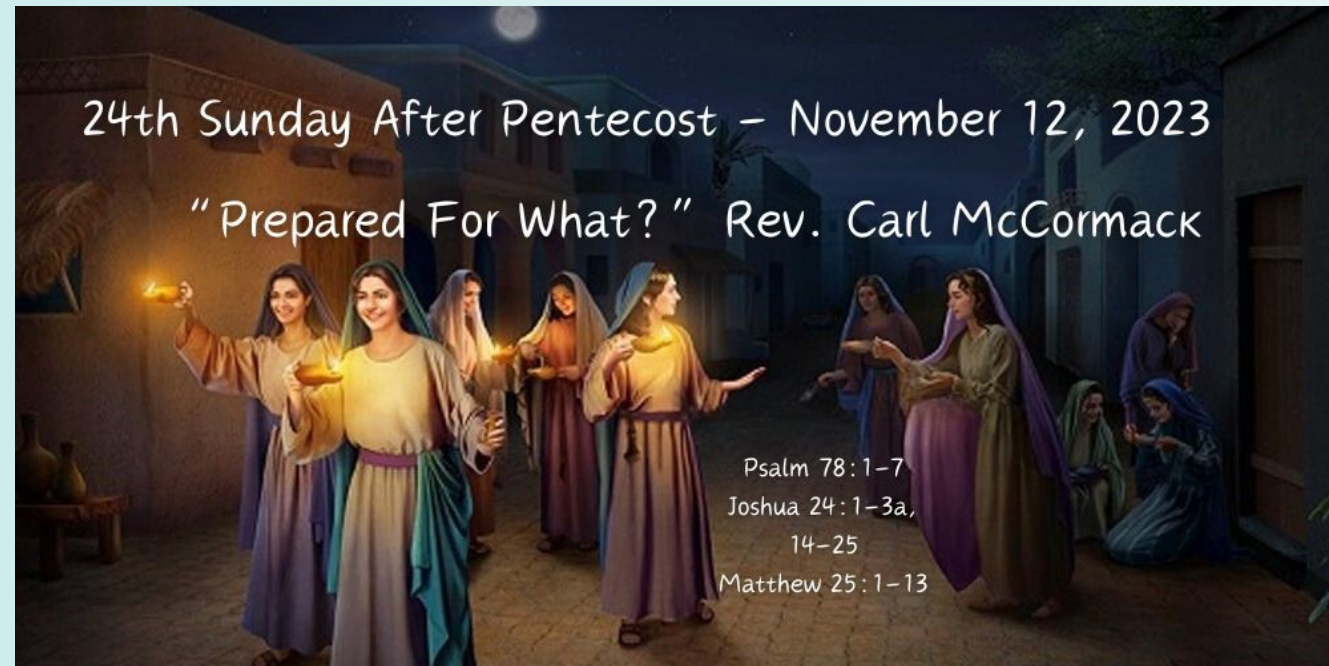


PARK HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 12, 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.

Welcome & Announcements Cindy Witherspoon Allen

Welcome from the Pastor

Prelude Bell Choir “Praise To The Lord The Almighty”

*Call to Worship Cindy Witherspoon Allen

Give ear, O people, to my teachings, incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

We open our lips in parables; we utter dark sayings from of old.

These are things we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.

We will not hide them from our children; we will tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord.

Together, let us worship the Lord.

*Opening Prayer (Unison) Cindy Witherspoon Allen

Your presence is all we seek, O God. Silence in us any voice but yours this day. Help us to sort through the clutter and distractions in our lives, that we may be present, here, right now, and worship you in joy and peace. Amen.

*Opening Song of Praise #624

“I Greet The, Who My Sure Redeemer Art”

Call To Confession Cindy Witherspoon Allen

Prayer of Confession (Unison) Cindy Witherspoon Allen

O God of mercy and goodness you have asked us to be alert, and serve you in faithfulness, but we go through the motions without taking the effort to be prepared. You have asked us to worship you and you alone, but we prefer to worship the other “gods” of wealth and popularity instead. Forgive us for willfully neglecting you and serving other gods. Forgive us for not being ready when you call us. Wake us from our slumber, O God, and in your mercy forgive us. 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
Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the Scriptures are read and the Word is proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let all other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today — the voice of truth and grace. Amen.

First Scripture Reading Psalm 78:1-7 Cindy Allen
Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.
We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.
He established a decree in Jacob,
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach to their children;
that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and rise up and tell them to their children,
so that they should set their hope in God,
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments;

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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 24:1-3a, 14-25
Rev. Carl McCormack
Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors--Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor--lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God." But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

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.

The Lord’s Supper

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.”

Gospel Reading Matthew 25:1-13 Rev. Carl McCormack

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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

Sermon *“Prepared For What?”* Rev. Carl McCormack

*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 death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

*Song of Affirmation #815 *“Give To The Winds Thy Fears”*

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.

*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

Doxology #606

Prayer of Dedication

*Song of Joyful Dedication #295 “Go To The World”

Charge & Benediction

Postlude

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost—November 12, 2023

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

11am—Worship Service—Pastor Carl McCormack

Monday, November 13, 2023

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

6:30pm—AR Scottish Dance Society

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

10am—Presbyterian Women Mission Meeting at Park Hill Christian Church

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

4:30—Handbell Choir

Thursday, November 16, 2023

9am—AR Food Bank Team

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost—November 19, 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, 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, Evie Mickle, Barbara Monroe, Stephanie Phillips, 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 pray for the family and friends of LaVonne Smith, who passed away on Monday, November 6, 2023.

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.