

Morning Worship
September 23, 2018
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

We Gather in God's Name

Greeting Marion Anderson

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Welcome & Announcements

Minute for Mission Andy Beck

Prelude *Voluntary on the Doxology* Purcell

Choral Introit *Come All You People*

*Call to Worship Marion Anderson

I will bless the Lord at all times;

his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

O magnify the Lord with me,

and let us exalt God's name together.

Let us worship God! Let us pray:

*Prayer of the Day

Eternal Father, your Son Jesus Christ brings the true Word from heaven.

Draw us to Christ that we may receive nourishing grace for our journey

in this world and know at last the joy of everlasting life with Christ, who

dwells with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*Hymn 307 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

Call to Confession

When we gather to worship God, we remember that we are God's people, but

we have often preferred our way instead of God's. Trusting God's power to

make us new persons in Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one

another. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children.

We have been angry with the world and nursed grudges against our

adversaries. We have hoarded the fruits of our labors rather than share

our bounty with the needy. We have not built up our neighbors with

words of kindness but have indulged in evil gossip. We have not forgiven

the wrongs others have done, even though we desire your forgiveness

toward us in Jesus Christ. Heal us, O God, and give us the grace to love

as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. Amen.

(Time for silent confession)

Assurance of Pardon

People of God, hope in the Lord! God has redeemed us from all our iniquities

through Christ who loved us and gave himself for us as living bread for the

life of the world. Let us be kind to one another, tenderhearted, and forgiving

one another as God in Christ has forgiven us. Friends, proclaim the good

news of the gospel!

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

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Holy Interruption *We greet our neighbors in Christ's love*

We Receive God's Word

Preschool-Kindergarten age children are dismissed to the Pray n' Play program held in the room beside the church nursery in the main Church building. Children who are in the 1st grade and higher should return to their seats in the congregation.

Anthem *In Christ Alone*

Mark Hayes

In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song.

This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.

My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babe!

This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.

'Til on that cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;

For ev'ry sin on Him was laid. Here in the death of Christ, I live.

There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain.

Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!

And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me.

For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me.

From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny,

No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand.

'Til He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I stand.

Here in the pow'r of Christ I stand!

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson Psalm 34:8

New Testament Lesson Mark 6:30-45

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Stuart Wilson

“Catching the Miracle”

We Respond to God's Word

* Hymn 177 *I Will Come to You*

* Declaration of Faith (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed

the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the

captives, teaching by word and deed.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love

God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's

image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one

community.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of

life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, and binds us together

with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve

Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we

watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord

Jesus!” Amen.

**Gloria Patri* (hymn 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.

Prayers of the People (concluding with 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.

Offering Invitation

Offertory *Air* De Chambonnières

* Praise of God *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be;

All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee

Prayer of Dedication

We Depart in God's Name

* Hymn 846 *Fight the Good Fight*

* Benediction and Sending

* Choral Response *Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises*

* Postlude *Voluntary* anon.

Usher/Greeter Team for September

Fred Harris and Christie McLeod

FPC welcomes Rev. Dr. Stuart Wilson to the pulpit this morning.

It is good to be with you this morning. In 1978 I received a Master of Divinity and in 1994 a Doctor of Ministry both from Columbia Theological Seminary.

During 40 years I have served churches in Virginia, North & South Carolina, Alabama, and Pennsylvania. Fifteen years ago, I felt called to and participated in specialized training for Interim Ministry. I retired in February of this year.

My wife, Babbs, and I have 4 sons and a daughter. Our empty nest is in Wadesboro. I am grateful to have experienced the unique tasks and blessings of Interim Ministry.

