

First Presbyterian Evanston

October 17, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FOCUS

Prelude

Lord, to Whom our Prayers Ascend

(Words: Johann Philipp Neumann, 1774-1849; Music: Franz Schubert, 1797-1828)

*Lord, to whom our prayers ascend, flowing from the inmost heart,
Through each day and each endeavor, may our lives your love impart.
You are always there to guide us, keeping us within your care.
All creation is your temple where your praises we declare.
Bless us now, both friends and family; go with us through all our days.
May our lives in work and worship be a hymn of love and praise.*

Welcome & Announcements

EXALT

Opening Song

O God, Beyond All Praising

*(Words: Michael Perry, 1942-1999; Music: tune "Thaxted," Gustav Holst, 1874-1934,
CCLI Song #32625313)*

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
That we who know your favor may serve you as our king;
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
We'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (*Hebrews 4:14,16*)

**All: Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

(Time of silent confession.)

Leader: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

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

ENCOUNTER

Children's Moment & Passing the Peace of Christ

Scripture

Mark 9:2-29

2 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was

transfigured before them, 3 and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. 4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 5 Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” 6 He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. 7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” 8 Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

The Coming of Elijah

9 As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. 10 So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean. 11 Then they asked him, “Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?” 12 He said to them, “Elijah is indeed coming first to restore all things. How then is it written about the Son of Man, that he is to go through many sufferings and be treated with contempt? 13 But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written about him.”

The Healing of a Boy with a Spirit

14 When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them. 15 When the whole crowd saw him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him. 16 He asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” 17 Someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; 18 and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so.” 19 He

answered them, “You faithless generation, how much longer must I be among you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me.” 20 And they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. 21 Jesus asked the father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. 22 It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us.” 23 Jesus said to him, “If you are able!—All things can be done for the one who believes.” 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out, “I believe; help my unbelief!” 25 When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You spirit that keeps this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!” 26 After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” 27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand. 28 When he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” 29 He said to them, “This kind can come out only through prayer.”

Sermon It’s in the “How Long” that we Find the Living God

Rev. Andrew Root, Guest Preacher

RESPOND

Sharing of Tithes & Offerings

Scripture and Song for Stewardship

(Words: Mark 10:49; Music: Dr. Robert McConnell, 2021)

Be gracious, O Lord, for my soul is troubled,
How long, O Lord, how long?
Return, O Lord, and deliver my soul,
And save me for the sake of your steadfast love.

“Take heart; rise up, he is calling you.”

I believe I will see His goodness
Here in the land of the living.
My soul waits for God like the watchman for the dawn,
But, O my God, how long must we wait?

“Take heart; rise up, he is calling you.”

“Take heart; rise up, he is calling you.”

Song of Response

Whenever God Shines His Light

(Words & Music: Van Morrison, 1989)

Whenever God shines his light on me
Opens up my eyes so I can see
When I look up in the darkest night
And I know everything's gonna be alright

In deep confusion, in great despair
When I reach out for him, he is there
When I am lonely as I can be
I know that God shines his light on me

Reach out for Him, He will be there
With him your troubles you can share
If you receive His precious love
You'll get the blessing from God above

Heals the sick and he heals the lame

Says you can do it too in Jesus' name
He'll lift you up, He'll turn you around
He'll put your feet back on higher ground

Reach out for him, he will be there
With him your troubles, you can share
You can use his higher power
Every minute and every hour

Heals the sick and He heals the lame
Says you can do it too in Jesus' name
He'll lift you up, He'll turn you around
He'll put your feet back on higher ground

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.

Closing Song

Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)

(Words & Music: John Newton, Chris Tomlin, & Louie Giglio; CCLI Song #4768151)

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I'm found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

My chains are gone, I've been set free;
My God, my Savior has ransomed me,
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, amazing grace.

My chains are gone, I've been set free;
My God, my Savior has ransomed me,
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, amazing grace.

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

Choral Benediction

We See the Mountains Lifted High Before Us

(Words: Psalm 121, adapt. Hal H. Hopson;

Music: trad. Irish tune "Londonderry Air," arr. Hal H. Hopson, 2012)

We see the mountains lifted high before us,
And some may ask, "From where does our help come?"
I tell you this, our help comes from the Lord;
The God who made all heavens, all the earth.

God calls us back when on the road we lose our way;
The Lord who keeps us never, never sleeps.
The God of all, the very God of Israel
Will hold us fast and bring us home again.

Benediction

Postlude

I Shall Not Want

(Words & Music: Audrey Assad & Bryan Brown, 2013, CCLI Song #7004369)
...And I shall not want, no, I shall not want. When I taste Your goodness I shall not want.
When I taste Your goodness, I shall not want.

Today's Worship Service Leaders

Paul Koch, Bass Section Leader, Prelude

Hannah Dixon McConnell, Director of Worship & Music, Choir Director, Prelude, Hymns & Songs, Children's Message & Peace

Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton, Senior Pastor, Welcome, Sharing of Tithes and Offerings, Prayers of the People

Members of the Chancel Choir, Hymns, Songs, Choral Benediction

Crofton Coleman, Worship Band Director, Piano, Vocals, Hymns & Songs, Postlude

Erwin Yasukawa, Bass, **Kon Savoy**, Drums, **Christie Miller & Fred Bryant**, Guitars,

Daniel Allen, Guitars & Vocals, **Judith Hylton**, Vocals, **Tina Laughlin**, Percussion

Jixun Hu, Seminary Intern, Confession & Assurance

Yemi Ajisebutu, Scripture Reading

Rev. Andrew Root, Guest Preacher, Sermon, Benediction

Noah McLeod, Interim A/V Coordinator

Jim Teague, Communications Director, Projection

Jake Collins, A/V Volunteer, Live Stream

John Carlson & Qin Zhou, A/V Volunteers, Online Chat

Joe Sickles, Building Team

Daniel Teague, Front Desk

Sally Ivaska & Sharon Smith, Prayer Companions

Marcia Smith, Carol Clanton, Tony Brown, Ushers

Peg Forbes, Paul Haase, Jerry Stover, Greeters

First Pres Announcements

There is no nursery childcare this morning. It will remain open for parents' use.

Fellowship time will take place in Roy Hall (2nd floor gym) immediately after today's service.

Our Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers will be held next Sunday, October 24, 2021, in the Sanctuary immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Agenda items include the election of officers, a preview of the 2022 budget, and important updates. For the list of candidates and other info, visit <https://firstpresevanston.org/event/congregational-meeting/>.

First Pres Deacons are holding a Winter Coat Drive for our Souper Saturday guests. They will be collecting men's or women's winter coats that are clean and in good repair. Warm scarves are sought as well. We will be collecting from October 23 to November 2. More details online.

Stewardship Sunday is October 31, 2021 - If you do not receive your pledge card by next Thursday, please contact the FPCE front desk at 847-864-1472.

Adult Education – Sundays at 11 a.m.

Missions is sponsoring a class & film series on racial injustice as seen through the lens of Jesus' life and teachings. Classes are in person or via Zoom on Sundays at 11 a.m. in Room 213, and on some Wednesdays at 7 p.m. (Zoom only). Learn more online.

Youth/Children's Education – Sundays at 11 a.m.

Infants thru 3-Year-Olds – NOTE: There is no nursery childcare this morning.

6th and 7th graders are invited to gather in the 3rd floor Youth Lounge.

Confirmation Class: 8th and 9th graders meet in room 206.

10th, 11th, and 12th graders are invited to help as a volunteer teachers. Contact Pastor Amanda if you are interested.

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Mission Statement:

***First Presbyterian Church of Evanston
exists to know Christ and to grow in him
as we serve and make disciples in Evanston, the Chicago area,
and the world.***



This QR code will take you to a web page with links for giving and recording your attendance at today's service via the Connect Card.

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