

A Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Montreat, NC

November 5th, 2023

We Gather to Worship God

Call to Worship

Leader: Good morning, friends. Welcome to a celebration of God's love.

People: Thank you. We are glad to be here this morning.

Leader: Today we will hear the good news of God.

People: In this world in which the news is mostly bad, we look forward to hearing God's good news for us.

Leader: Prepare your spirits. Quiet your souls. God is ready for you. (Take a few minutes in silence to prepare to worship God) Amen.

Invocation and 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.

*Opening Hymn #687

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

We Acknowledge Our Brokenness and Seek Reconciliation with God

Confession (Unison)

Lord, we know in our hearts you are always with us. You intercede in our darkest days. But so often we forget your faithfulness to us. When the days ahead lead us into uncharted waters, we fear, we dread, and we become paralyzed. Forgive us for not remembering your faithfulness to us and that you have been and will be the wind in our sails. Remind us to find peace in your being a part of the journey. You will lead us into a new day of hope if only we believe. Do not let us give up for you have not given up on us. For we ask these things in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Time of Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon:

Leader: In the midst of our darkness and ignorance, the bright light of God's love shines through, healing our anguished souls. Rejoice, beloved of God, for God's love and forgiveness are given to you this day.

People: Thanks be to Christ.

Passing of the Peace

God's Word Is Read and Proclaimed

Special Music

Kenneth Jones

Scripture Reading

Numbers 13 and 14 (various verses)

Proclamation of God's Word

Jeff Gilstrap

"God's Past Faithfulness is the Bridge to Our Future Hope"

Responding to God's Word

***Affirmation of Faith (responsive)**

Leader: We acknowledge one God alone, whose demands on us are absolute, whose help for us is sufficient.

People: That One is the Lord, whom we worship, serve, and love.

Leader: We know that God is not confined to the story we can tell. The story itself tells us God works the divine, sovereign will among all peoples of the earth.

People: We believe God works beyond our imagining throughout the universe.

Leader: We must not set our ultimate reliance on any other help.

People: We must not yield unconditional obedience to any other power.

Leader: We must not love anyone or anything more than we love God.

People: To worship God is highest joy. To serve God is perfect freedom.

***Responsive Hymn #39**

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Sending Out Into the World

Prayer

***Sending Hymn #59**

"The Steadfast Love of the Lord"

Benediction and Blessing