

November 12, 2023  
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

**GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRELUDE**

**Mr. Kevin Crone**

*(Please stand in body and/or spirit)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: The God of our ancestors has led us to this place.

**Congregation: WE are witnesses.**

Pastor: We have sworn to teach God's promises to all generations.

**Congregation: We ARE witnesses!**

Pastor: The time is coming when Christ will come again in glory.

**Congregation: We are WITNESSES!**

Pastor: Let us tell the world of God's faithful love.

**All: WE ARE WITNESSES! Let us worship and witness together!**

**HYMN**

*Rise Up, O Saints of God*

**Chalice #611**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Pastor: Saints of God, trusting in the Lord's abundant grace, let us confess.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All people:** *O Lord there never seems to be enough time to do all the things that are demanded of us. Schedules become crowded. We live by the clock. We think we are ready for all events that will come our way. But we are rarely ready for you. We would like you to come to us at a planned time so that we can fit you into our busy lives. Forgive us, Lord, for trying to make you a scheduled event. We have moved you to a time on our weekly calendars. Yet you are the eternal God who has always loved us and been ready to receive us. Help us to learn that, with you as our foundation, we can handle anything that comes our way. With you as our focus, all things pale in comparison. Let us revisit the priorities in our lives and see where we have placed service to you. Amen.*

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS** (Based on Romans 8:34)

Pastor: Hear the Good News! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us. Christ, himself, prays for us.

**All people: Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

References

Rev. Thom Shuman is a Presbyterian minister in Columbus, Ohio. He is currently serving in interim or transitional ministry, as he writes a personal lectionary blog called "Lectionary Liturgies." This Benediction is from November 9, 2014. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2014/11/liturgy-wcommunion-for-november-9-2014.html> 27 October 2020

**PRAISE HYMN***Gloria Patri*

Red Hymnal, #493

**PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST***(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)***JESUS SAID, “LET THE CHILDREN COME”****HYMN***It is Well, with My Soul*

Chalice #561

**OLD TESTAMENT READING – 1 Samuel 15:10-23****EPISTLE READING – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18****GOSPEL READING – Matthew 25:1-13****SERMON & PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Laura Baker

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

*All people: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.” Amen.*

**ANTHEM***O God, Our Help* (Croft)

Chancel Choir

*(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)***OFFERING INVITATION**

Liturgist: Blessing upon blessing has been given to us, from the Lord’s great bounty. Let us now return a portion of those gifts to God’s kin-dom work and dedicate them with a song and a prayer.

*(Please stand in body and/or spirit)***DOXOLOGY***We Give Thee But Thine Own* (Verse 1, only)

Red Hymnal, #258

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*All people: For the blessings of this and all our days, we thank you, gracious God. Accept, we pray, not just our financial offerings, but also our lives freely offered in gratitude for all you have done for us. Use them both, in this place and wherever you might take us. Amen.*

**HYMN***I Love to Tell the Story*

Chalice, #480

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: Go now to tell the stories of our God.

**Congregation: We will listen to the lives of those around us as we do.**

Pastor: Go now to discover the gifts of everyone you meet.

**Congregation: We will remember Jesus, who blessed us with hope and life.**

Pastor: Go now to share all that is within you.

**Congregation: We will tell everyone - from the smallest child to the oldest person - of the Spirit who welcomes us and longs to shape us into one community.**

Pastor: In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

*All people: Amen.***POSTLUDE**