

November 5, 2023
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

**GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
JOYS AND CONCERNS**

PRELUDE

Mr. Kevin Crone

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: God, we know you are with us.

All people: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

Pastor: You have showered your love upon all generations,
since the beginning of time.

All people: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

Pastor: Guide us now through this time of worship,
and into the week ahead.

All people: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

HYMN

Built on the Rock

Chalice, #273

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: Trusting in God's abundant grace and love, let us confess.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor: Everlasting God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Since the creation of the world, you have nurtured us with your love. And yet we shamefully acknowledge that we do not always share your love with others. We are selective about who we choose as "neighbors" - only those who are "clean," who look like us, who talk right, and so forth.

All people: Loving God, teach us to love you more fully. For in loving you, our lives will show love to all others, even as your love encompasses all your creation, in all generations. We pray in the name of your greatest gift of love, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Friends in Christ, give thanks to the Lord for grace and mercy!

God forgives us and replaces our idolatry
with hospitality and love for others.

*All people: Praise be to God, for sending us the Holy Spirit
who brings them to life in us! May it be so.*

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

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Chalice #65

OLD TESTAMENT READING – 1 Samuel 14:47-48 and 52

EPISTLE READING – 1 Thessalonians 2:1–8

GOSPEL READING – Matthew 22:34–46

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me

Chancel Choir

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

OFFERING INVITATION

(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: Take our offerings and tithes, O God, bless them that they may be used to share your love and blessing in our community and the world. May these offerings provide for the least of these needs and the proclamation of your word to those seeking hope. Amen!

HYMN

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Chalice, #589

BENEDICTION

Pastor: As you leave this place, may God's love surround you, may Christ uphold you, and may the Spirit empower you to be agents of love in the world.

All people: Amen.

POSTLUDE