

Highland Presbyterian Church

September 24th, 2023
17th Sunday after Pentecost
10:30 a.m.



Highland Presbyterian Church seeks to be a *diverse* and *inclusive* Christian Community as we embody the love and forgiveness of Jesus by serving the Community and the World, drawing people to Christ.



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS



Prelude

Fugue in C

Handel

Gathering

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Sandy Miller

One: Whether we are longtimers or latecomers in the life of faith,

All: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

One: Whether we embrace God's call in our lives or try to avoid it,

All: God is gracious and merciful, showing us love and patience

One: Whether we understand all of God's plan or not,

All: God will continue to speak to us and guide us forth. Let us worship God!

*Opening Hymn

For the Fruit of All Creation

Hymn 36

Call to Confession

Sandy Miller

Prayer of Confession (**Communal**)

God of abundant goodness, we confess that we want your grace for ourselves but often wish punishment or exclusion on others. Forgive us, we pray, when we are petty even in the presence of your generosity. Forgive us, we pray, when we feel slighted by you. May we ask once again for your mercy? Will you help us to be more merciful toward one another? We pray in the name of Christ Jesus, by whose grace we are saved. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Time for the Children

Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Sandy Miller

Gracious God, your Word surprises, challenges, and overturns our way of seeing and thinking. Through your Word, align us with your ways and help us receive your gift of justice and mercy as good news. In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Holy Scripture

Matthew 20:1–16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

“About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

“‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Statement of Faith **(Communal)**Excerpts from *A Brief Statement of Faith PC(USA)*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of 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!"

Offering Our Gifts

Moment for Mission

Peace and Global Witness

Sandy Miller

Offertory

Beautiful Savior

Silesian melody / Wood

*Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymn 609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Prayer of Thanksgiving **(Communal)**

God of the harvest, we are privileged to be counted among those whom you have called, graced to have been given your work to do, blessed to receive more than we will ever earn. Accept, we pray, our thanksgivings and offerings, and do what you choose with what already belongs to you. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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.

Sending

*Closing Hymn

For All the Saints

Hymn 326

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington

Postlude

Air

Young

Free Little Neighborhood Item of the Week

Our Free Little Neighborhood Item is boxed meals. Next time you're at the grocery store, keep an eye out for meals that come in a single box and can be made in one pan. It provides an easy and quick meal and just another way we can help our neighbors.

Upcoming Events

Compost Sale and Church Clean Up Saturday, October 7th, 8a.m. – Noon

Join the Sustainability and Building & Grounds Committees at the church on **Saturday, October 7th** for our fall compost sale and church clean up. We will have cleaning jobs both inside and outside and the sustainability committee will host its second compost sale with proceeds benefiting sustainability efforts at Highland. Rain date is Saturday, October 14th.

Fall Bible Study *Matthew with Matthew* October 3rd – November 8th

Join Pastor Matthew for a Fall Bible study as we read through the Gospel of Matthew together. This 6-week study will take us all the way through the Gospel as we look at specific passages, historical background, and insights to help you understand this Gospel more. Sessions will be by **Zoom on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. from October 3rd – November 7th** and **Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the parlor from October 4th – November 8th**. Sign up in the back of the sanctuary.

Weekly Schedule for Septembert 24th – October 1st

Sunday, September 24 – Sunday Worship **10:30 a.m.** Fellowship Time **11:30 a.m.**

Monday –

Tuesday – Quilters at **9 a.m.**

Wednesday – OA- **1 p.m.** Choir Practice **7:00 p.m. Sanctuary**

Thursday – Girl Scouts at **7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

Friday – UKirk Auction and Open House- **5:00 – 7:00 p.m. UKirk UT**

Saturday – John Knox Camp Work Day- **9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Camp John Knox**

Sunday, October 1 – Sunday Worship (World Communion Sunday) **10:30 a.m.**

Special thanks to Christina Villaverde for providing music during today's worship service.

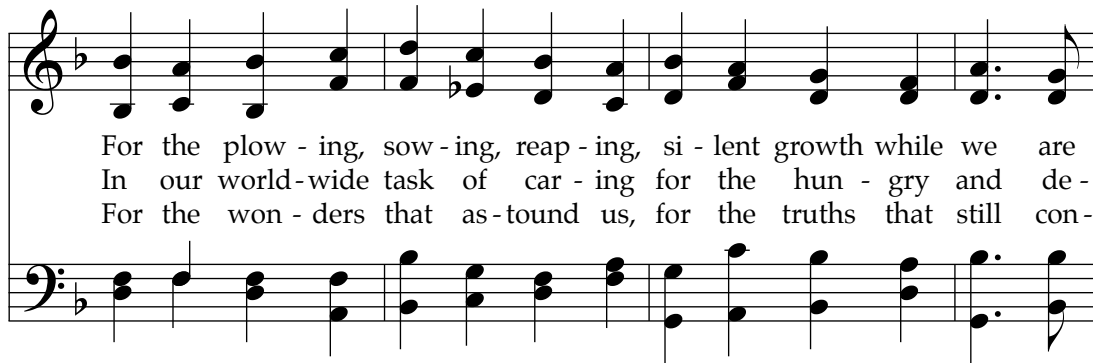
For the Fruit of All Creation 36



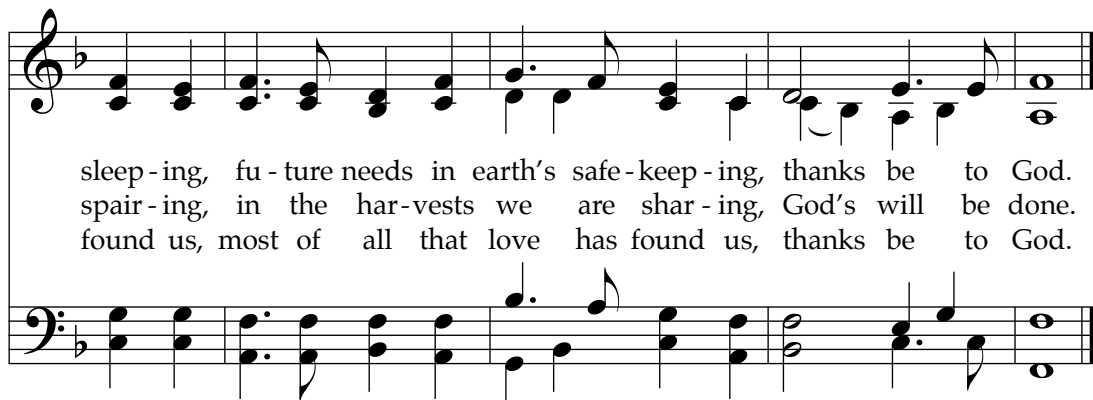
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -



sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.
 found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."

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For All the Saints



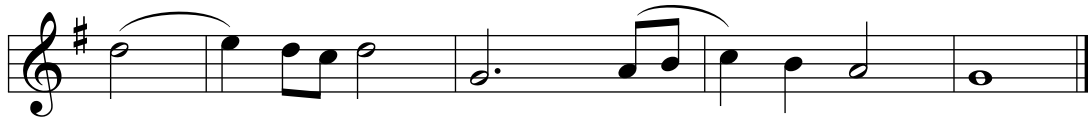
1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might;
 3 O blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!
 4 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,
 5 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through



thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
 thou, Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight;
 We fee - bly strug - gle; they in glo - ry shine; yet
 steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, and
 gates of pearl streams in the count - less host,



name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
 thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.
 all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 hearts are brave a - gain, and arms are strong.
 sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The broad and sweeping tune with which this hymn is so closely identified was created to be sung during a reverent but dramatic procession at the beginning of an All Saints' Day service, an enacted representation of the enduring "fellowship divine" celebrated by this text.

Harmony, stanza 3

3 O blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!

We fee - bly strug - gle; they in glo - ry shine; yet

all are one in thee, for all are thine.

to stanza 4

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!