

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Order of Service for the Worship of God

September 24, 2017

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

Carolyn Wallace

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

O Worship the King

Chancel Choir

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** ~ Psalm 33: 1-2, 4-5, 18, 22

L: Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright.

P: Praise the LORD with the lyre, make melody to God with the harp of ten strings!

L: For the word of the LORD is upright; and all God's work is done in faithfulness.

P: God loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

L: The eye of the LORD is on those who hold God in proper awe and reverence, those who trust in God's steadfast love.

P: Let your steadfast love be upon us, O LORD, even as we trust in you.

***UNISON OPENING PRAYER** ~ From the PCUSA *Book of Common Worship*

Eternal God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – you created the heavens and the earth and made humankind in your image. As we gather to worship and praise you, we ask you to teach us to discern your hand in all your works, and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving, we pray in Jesus' name; Amen.

***HYMN**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

#33

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, forgive us for thinking we know better than you. We don't come out and say "Lord, you are wrong!" but that's what it really means when we question your love for those we do not love. We judge, even without knowing all the facts, and then we become angry when you do not punish others whom we criticize and condemn. We expect preferential treatment for ourselves and our loved ones, even while proclaiming that you are Lord of all. Forgive us for wanting you to conform to us, instead of conforming ourselves to you, and to your will.

(Silent prayer and personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

***GLORIA PATRI**

#813

ANTHEM

If My People's Hearts Are Humbled

Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S LESSON ~ *Children through 5th grade may go to Junior Church afterward*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ~ Jonah 3: 1 - 4: 11 ~ Page 801 in the pew Bible

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he cried, "In forty days, Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. Then tidings reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, and covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he made proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; let them not feed, or drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them cry mightily to God; yes, let everyone turn from their evil way and from the violence which is in their hands. Who knows, God may yet change and turn from his fierce anger and punishment, so that we perish not." When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God changed his mind about the harsh punishment which he had said he would do to them; and he did not do it.

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. And he prayed to the LORD and said, "I ask you, LORD, isn't this what I said when I was still in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and you change your mind regarding harsh punishment. Therefore now, O LORD, take my life from me, I beg you, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Do you do well to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. And the LORD God appointed a plant, and made it come up over Jonah, to be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. But when dawn came up the next day, God sent a worm which attacked the plant, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God sent a sultry east wind, and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah so that he was faint; and he asked that he might die, and said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry because of the plant?" And he said, "I do well to be angry, angry enough to die." And the LORD said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night, and perished in a night. And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"

GOSPEL LESSON ~ Matthew 19: 30 - 20: 16 ~ Page 851 in the pew Bible

[Jesus said] "Many who are first will be last, and last first. For the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After

agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour [9:00 a.m.] he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour [noon] and the ninth hour [3:00 p.m.], he did the same. And about the eleventh hour [5:00 p.m.] he went out and found others standing; and he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the householder, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you, and go; I choose to give to this last as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So the last will be first, and the first last."

L: This is the word of the Lord; **P: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "The Justice of the LORD" Rev. Frank Wyche

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed* Inside front cover of hymnal

*HYMN *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* #355

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY #815

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (...debts/debtors...)

*HYMN *We'll Understand It Better By and By* #771

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL CLOSE *Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing* Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE Carolyn Wallace

*Those who are able may stand.

BOLDFACE TYPE indicates words spoken or sung by the congregation.



What is the LORD's Justice?

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