

Perhaps this is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, write this with my own hand, I will repay it – to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be granted to you. Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

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

SERMON “Useful to God” Rev. Frank Wyche

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *The Apostles’ Creed* Inside front cover of Hymnal

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** *Have Thine Own Way* #591

OFFERING AND

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** #815

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

***HYMN** *God of Grace and God of Glory* #435

*BENEDICTION

***CHORAL RESPONSE** *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing* Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE Alessio Giacobone

*Those who are able may stand.

BOLDFACE TYPE indicates words spoken or sung by the congregation.

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

423 Hebron Road, Staunton, VA 24401

Telephone (540) 885-1648 Church email: hebronchurch@msn.com

Church website: www.hebronpc.com Office Hours: 9:00-1:00 p.m., Mon-Fri



*“Behold, like the clay in the
potter’s hand, so are you
in my hand”*

~From Jeremiah 18:6

Hebron Presbyterian Church

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September 11, 2016 ~ 24th Sunday, Ordinary Time

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 11, 2016

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

Alessio Giacobone

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Sanctuary

Chancel Choir

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** ~ Psalm 84: 1-2, 4-5, 10-12

L: How lovely is thy dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yea, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my very being sing for joy to the living God.

P: Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose hearts are the highways to Zion.

L: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

P: For the LORD God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly.

All: O LORD of hosts, blessed are those who trust in you!

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

Holy God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – you alone can order our unruly wills and affections. Help us to love what you have commanded, and to desire what you promise; so that, in the midst of this changing world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

***HYMN**

All Creatures of Our God and King (vss. 1, 4, 5)

#63

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION from *When We Gather* by Rev. James G. Kirk

God of mercy, show compassion as we make our confession. You call us to faithful action, but we are slow to respond. We claim to be wise, but we do not know your word in Scripture. You command us to tell of your mighty deeds, yet we remain silent. Our allegiance is divided, for we create false gods, and we worship and serve them. We do not turn from our evil ways, nor do we sacrifice those treasures that give us status. We say we obey you, but our thoughts and words and deeds betray us. By the mercies of our Savior Jesus, we ask you to cleanse us of our sin, and make us new.

(Silent prayer, personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON ~ 1 Peter 2: 3, 9-10

L: You have tasted the kindness of the Lord... You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,

P: That [we] may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called [us] out of darkness into his marvelous light.

L: Once [we] were no people but now [we] are God's people;

P: Once [we] had not received mercy but now [we] have received mercy.

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

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

***GLORIA PATRI**

#813

ANTHEM

Spirit of the Living God

Chancel Choir

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ~ Jeremiah 18: 1-11 ~ page 666 in the pew Bible

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. And the vessel he was making of clay was misshapen in the potter's hand, so he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do. Then the word of the LORD came to me: "O house of Israel, can I not do with all of you as this potter has done? says the LORD. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up, and break down, and destroy it, yet if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, then I will turn from the judgment that I intended to do to it. And if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, yet if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will turn from the good which I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem: 'Thus says the LORD: Behold, I am shaping judgment against you and devising a plan against you. Return, every one from their evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.'"

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON ~ Philemon 1-25 ~ page 1043 in the pew Bible

[From] Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved fellow worker and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints, and I pray that the sharing of your faith may promote the knowledge of all the good that is ours in Christ. For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you. Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you – I, Paul, an ambassador and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus – I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become in my imprisonment. (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will.