

The Worship of God
The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 12, 2021

A HYMN FESTIVAL BASED ON THE APOSTLES' CREED

Welcome

Sharing Our Vision

During our silence while listening to the prelude...

MUSIC speaks what cannot be expressed in other ways - it soothes the mind and gives it rest - it heals the heart and makes it whole - it flows from heaven

Why should we have a service of worship based on hymns? Hymns have the wonderful ability to speak to our spirits and move us into a deeper worship of God. Quite often, the great truths of faith are expressed in hymns. The Apostles' Creed is one of the earliest statements of Christian belief, and one which is included in the Presbyterian *Book of Confessions*. It covers all of the basic theological tenets of the Reformed Christian faith. Because this is so, the themes within the hymns used in this service naturally fall within the affirmations of this creed. We hope you enjoy singing these wonderful hymns today as a way of affirming your faith in the God who created, redeemed and sustains you!

Introduction to the Service

Welcome to our Hymn Festival – a Service of Worship in which we will do a LOT of singing – in fact, almost exclusively – which will be a bit different for us. Typically, this church has always valued good music and we particularly enjoy the music provided by our choir, pianist, bell choir and soloists.

This week will require a bit more participation on your part. Worship is meant to be a time in which your whole person actively participates in the worship and praise of Almighty God. Today we will do this by listening to the Word of God read from scripture, and as it is revealed through hymns. The parts of the service which are generally read will be sung today, since we are gathered to celebrate the gift of music and singing.

Mostly you will sit during our singing because you would probably feel like a jumping jack hopping up and down if I asked you to stand for each hymn. You will be invited to stand for a few of them. We want you to not just enjoy the hymns with your mouth, but to meditate on their words, and enjoy them with your heads and hearts, allowing their words and the feel of the music to enter your spirit and feed you. To that end, we want this to be a service that nurtures your spirit. All the words to the hymns will be on the screen, but if it makes you more comfortable having the music scores in front of you, we will provide the page numbers in the hymnal for you, when they are available.

As we move through this service, moving from one portion of the creed to the next, I will ask you to affirm what you believe by reading these headings. At each new portion of the creed I will begin with the words "I believe" or "I believe he."

At those points, you are invited to respond with the portion of the creed that you will see on the screen. We will be using an ecumenical version of the creed as the language is more user friendly.

Let us begin our worship by saying what we believe...by reading together the first portion of our creed which is two words – I BELIEVE. Let us affirm the faith we hold dear.

I believe.

Invitation to our Call to Worship

Let us be called to worship by singing hymn #260, vs. 1&2, *A Mighty Fortress*

Call to Worship: #260, vs. 1 & 2

*A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
And armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.*

A Mighty Fortress

*Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side,
The Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he,
Lord Sabaoth, his name,
From age to age the same,
And he must win the battle.*

Call to Confession

In humility and faith, let us confess our sins to God first corporately and then individually in silence, that we might be reconciled to God and one another. May the words to our next hymn be used as our Prayer of Confession. Please stand, if you are able.

Prayer of Confession #345, vs. 1 & 2

*Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.*

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

*In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word,
Rise up and follow thee.*

And now let us confess our individual sins by turning to God in silent prayer.....Amen.

Assurance of Pardon #356, vs. 1 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.*

*Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love!*

Let us say what we believe:

*I believe ... in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.*

Scripture: Psalm 24: 1-2

“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.”

Hymn: #293

This is My Father's World

*This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.*

*This is my Father's world:
Oh, let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
The battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heaven be one.*

Hymn: # 467, vs. 1

How Great Thou Art

*Oh, Lord my God!
When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds
Thy hands have made,*

*I see the stars,
I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout
The universe displayed; Refrain*

Refrain:

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art!*

I believe ... in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

Now let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ.

Scripture: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. For a child has been born

for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this."

Hymn: #306, vs. 1

Fairest Lord Jesus

*Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O thou of God to earth come down,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.*

I believe ... he was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,

Scripture: Luke 2: 7, 9-11

"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.'

Hymn: # 53, vs. 1

What Child Is This?

*What Child is this, who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?*

*This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.*

Hymn: #376, vs. 1 & 4

Love Divine All Loves Excelling

*Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.*

*Finish, then, thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.*

I believe he ... suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died, and was buried;

Scripture: John 19: 16-18a

“Then Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him, two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.”

Hymn: # 102, vs. 1 & 2

Were You There?

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?*

Hymn: # 302, vs. 3 & 4

I Danced In the Morning

*I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
And left me there on a cross to die. (R)*

*I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;
But I am the Dance and I still go on. (R)*

Refrain:

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all in the dance said he.*

I believe ... he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

Scripture: Matthew 28: 2, 5-6a

“And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. But the

angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised...”

Hymn: # 104, vs. 2

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

*Christ is risen! Raise your spirits
From the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning.
See what love can do and dare.*

*Drink the wine of resurrection,
Not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion.
Joy and peace shall never end.*

Scripture: John 20: 15-16

“Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabboni!’ (which means Teacher).”

Hymn: vs. 1&2

In the Garden

*I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses,
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses. (R)*

*He speaks, and the sound of his voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
And the melody that he gave to me
Within my heart is ringing. (R)*

Refrain:

*And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
And he tells me I am his own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.*

*I believe ... he ascended into heaven,
he is seated on the right hand of the Father,*

Scripture: Mark 16: 19

“So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.”

Hymn: # 151, vs. 1-2

*Crown him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon his throne;
Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.*

Crown Him With Many Crowns

*Crown him the Lord of love;
Behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye
At mysteries so bright.*

I believe ... he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Scripture: I Thessalonians 4: 16-18

“For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

Hymn: # 467, vs. 4

How Great Thou Art

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!*

Refrain: *Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art!*

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Cares Chorus:

*I cast all my cares upon you. I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.
And anytime I don’t know what to do, I cast all my cares upon you.*

Offering #388, vs. 1 & 4

O Jesus, I Have Promised

*O Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
Be thou forever near me,
My Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If thou wilt be my guide.*

*O Jesus, thou hast promised
To all who follow thee
That where thou art in glory
There shall thy servant be;
And, Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
My Master and my friend.*

Prayer of Dedication: As your dear children, O God, we come to you, trying to be like Jesus Christ, who loved you and gave himself on our behalf as an offering and sacrifice whose fragrance is pleasing to you. Receive what we give as a symbol of our commitment to living as your disciples. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

I believe ... in the Holy Spirit,

Scripture: Acts 2: 1-2, 4a

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit...”

Hymn: # 322

Spirit of the Living God

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.*

Hymn: vs. 1 & 2

His Eye Is On the Sparrow

*Why should I feel discouraged,
Why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely
And long for heaven and home,
When Jesus is my portion?
My constant friend is he:
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know he watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me. (R)*

*“Let not your heart be troubled,”
His tender word I hear,
And resting on his goodness,
I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path he leadeth
But one step I may see:
His eye is on the sparrow
And I know he watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know he watches me. (R)*

Refrain:

*I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
For his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.*

I believe in ... the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,

Scripture: Ephesians 2: 19-22

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.”

Hymn: #442, vs. 1 & 2

The Church's One Foundation

*The church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation
By water and the word;
From heaven he came and sought her
To be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her,
And for her life he died.*

*Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.*

I believe in ... the forgiveness of sins,

Scripture: Ephesians 2: 8

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God —“

Hymn: #280, vs. 1 & 5

Amazing Grace

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begin.*

I believe in ... the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Scripture: John 11: 25-26

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’”

Hymn: vs. 2 & 3***Be Still My Soul***

*Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
To guide the future as he has the past.
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.*
*Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.*
*Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.*
*Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.*

Hymn: #543, vs. 1 & 4***Abide With Me***

*Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

*I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless:
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory:
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.*

Scripture: Isaiah 40: 31

“But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

Hymn: Vs. 1***On Eagle's Wings***

*You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in this shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: "My refuge,
My rock in whom I trust!"*
*"And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of my hand."*

SENDING

****Charge:** Hymn #525, vs. 1 ***Here I Am Lord***

*I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?*

Refrain:
*Here I am Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord,
If you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

****Benediction** As you leave today, know that you go with the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit today and every day.

LET THE PEOPLE OF GOD SAY...AMEN

****Response**

Pass It On

*It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
And soon all those around, can warm up to its glowing.
That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it.
You spread his love to everyone. You want to pass it on.*

*What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding.
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming.
That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it.
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring. You want to pass it on.*

*I wish for you my friend, this happiness that I've found.
You can depend on him, it matters not where you're bound.
I'll shout it from the mountaintop; I want my world to know.
The Lord of Love has come to me. I want to pass it on.*