

**First Presbyterian Church
of Newton**

10:30 AM SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

** indicates when to rise
in body or in spirit*



WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Come and hear what God has done

People: God has listened to our prayer.

Leader: When we pass through a torrent of deep troubles,

People: God turns the sea to dry land.

Leader: When we are tangled in the web of life,

People: God does not let our feet slip.

Leader: When we go through fire and water,

People: God brings us to hope.

All: Come and hear what God has done -
God surrounds us with steadfast love.

*** SONG STF #2175 “Together We Serve” (Please see insert)**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and gracious God, at times we feel so frail and fragile, getting blown about by the latest crisis, by bad news, by our own short tempers and failings. You call us to hold fast to what is good, but so often we flounder, unable to find that solid thing that will center us again. Help us, we pray. Help us to see you as our center, and to cling to the good that you create in the world. Help us to set aside all our jealousies and prejudices, all our betrayals and lies, all that adds to the world’s hurt. Help us to grow even more into Christ’s likeness, that we will bear his love and truth to the world. We pray in his name. Amen.

(A Time of Silent Prayer follows)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**Leader: Friends in Christ, know this:
 the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting,
 and I remind you of this surpassing grace -**

All: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen

*** SUNG RESPONSE OF JOY**

STF #2088 “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” (Please see insert)

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord. Amen

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 66:8-12

Leader: Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard,
People: who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.
Leader: For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.
People: You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;
you let people ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water;
ALL: yet, you have brought us out to a spacious place.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 5:1-4

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTIONS ON OUR WEEK IN WOODSOCKET

* SONG STF #2130 "The Summons" (Please see insert)

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD'S SERVICE

OFFERTORY

* SONG RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE PH 591 "Praise God"

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

*** PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ending with the 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.

*** SONG "My Lighthouse"**

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** POSTLUDE**

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**We thank our Worship Leaders of the Youth Mission Team 2023 and our Ushers/Greeters Judy Prendergast and April Fisher this morning.**

**Ellie Crowell, Maddie Crowell, Patrick Hoffman, Even Parker, Shea Vallorosi, Paige Vandergoot, Laureen Armstrong, Colleen Duffy and Billy Woodrow.**

Liturgical Resources:

Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What is Good'. Used with permission."