November 5, 2023 ~ 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering Music ~ Karen Danke, guest

Welcome and Announcements ~ Don Tulley, liturgist

Prelude ~ "Face to Face, We Shall Behold Him" (L. Larson) ~ Celebration Choir Procession of the Cross and the Elements of Communion

Call to Worship ~ responsive

Leader: We worship our God, who made us wonderfully.

People: God formed us from the dust of the earth and called us very good.

Leader: God breathed life into us and called us into a relationship together.

People: Lord, as you breathed life into us, breathe your Holy Spirit into us so that we can faithfully worship and serve you. Amen.

*you are invited to stand in body or in spirit

*Hymn ~ "The Heart of Worship" (M. Redman)

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession ~ in unison

Jesus, through your work on the cross and resurrection you have brought new life to our world and lives. Yet, we confess that at times in our fear and tiredness we feel defeated and give in to apathy, hopelessness and sin. Forgive us, Jesus. Give rest to our weary hearts and show us how new life can grow, even from places of hurt and pain. Amen. (A time of silent, personal prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Responsive Chorus #649 ~ "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" (v.1) 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.

Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Responsive Chorus #611 ~ "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (v.1) Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love! Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

Offering Prayer

*Offertory#647 ~ "Give Thanks"

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.

And now let the weak say, "We are strong";

let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!" Give thanks. Give thanks.

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Scripture ~ Ezekiel 37:1-14

Special Music ~ "Celtic Communion" (M. Hayes) ~ Celebration Choir

Christian Scripture ~ 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Message ~ "Abundant Life: Is there even life in these old bones?"

*Hymn #525 ~ "Let Us Break Bread Together"

A time for sharing the joys and concerns of our community.

Congregational Response: Lord, hear our Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer ~ in unison

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.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper ~ responsive

Leader: The Lord be with you. **People: And also with you.** Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord. Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

"All Belong Here" ~ (L. Rand/H. Rand) as recorded by The Many

Come and remember who you are here. Do this to remember who I am.

Come and remember you belong here. All belong here.

At this table come as you are, broken and bleeding's ok.

At this table eat and be filled, come and drink in this grace.

Come and remember who you are here. Do this to remember who I am. Come and remember you belong here. All belong here.

Breaking of the Bread and Sharing of the Cup

Prayer after Communion

*Hymn #634 ~ "To God Be the Glory"

*Benediction

*Choral Response #542 ~ "God Be with You Till We Meet Again" (v.1) God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.

Postlude

CCLI#2342595/20863950 CVLI#505418919

"Dear St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, thanks to your generosity, we will be able to continue to meet the needs of our community by providing housing for future teams. Thank you so much for volunteering your time and talents to assist in the rebuilding of our community. We are forever grateful. Peace and Love, First Presbyterian Church, Madisonville, Kentucky."

Thank you to all who came out last Sunday for **ROMANS** to repair our outdoor nativity scene in preparation for the coming Advent/Christmas season and to create new Chrismons to replace aging/broken pieces!

From Mark Handford... "Just as the season of Advent is nearly upon us, it is also the season for people to join the bell ringers and singers to celebrate through this festive season. Ringers will be meeting Thursday, November 9, at 6pm in the sanctuary, and of course the choir will have their rehearsal right afterwards at 7.

Come one, come all, for fun and play... feel free to talk with me!"

From Kathy Potter... ROMANS 12:4 - Cookies for Crossroads Farm December 3rd, following worship. We will gather for a meal, Christmas carols & packaging 125 Christmas cookie decorating kits for the rural youth served by Crossroads Farms in western Michigan! Lunch will be provided by the VanEcks! Everyone is invited! We are requesting assistance from anyone who would be willing to bake large, plain sugar cookies to be bagged in gallon ziploc baggies. They can be Christmas shaped or round, but NOT decorated, as we are making cookie-decorating kits for the youth to decorate themselves! We need 125 dozen! Cookies can be brought in Sunday, December 3rd, already bagged & ready to be included in the kit. Please sign up by Tuesday, November 28th in the church lobby or by responding to this invitation. Please indicate how many will be participating on Sunday, so we can plan for the meal. Also, indicate if you will be willing to bake and how many dozen cookies you can provide. Please sign up as early as you can to help the Faith Formation Committee to plan accurately! We will also need large boxes to transport the kits to the delivery point. These can be brought in on the 3rd also. If baking isn't your thing, Gordon Food

Service has Christmas shaped sugar cookies ready to bake in boxes of 6 dozen!!! No mixing! Just bake, cool & bag! On Sunday the 3rd, we will be boxing cookies, bagging sprinkles, and assembling the decorating kits for gifting! Crossroads Farm is a Christian ministry to at-risk rural youth in Western Michigan. These cookie decorating kits are added to other gifts donated by a variety of groups and individuals to form a Christmas package given to each of the youth served by this ministry at their annual Christmas party. We always have a wonderful time of fellowship & service as we prepare to bless and encourage these youth. I hope you will plan to join us in this endeavor!!

Please hold those listed in prayer... and REVIEW and REPORT updates, PLEASE!

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Steve Boyak, Bill Garvey, Mike Graham, Janet Frank, Grace Erwin August and Faith Kornowicz, Karen Bright, Sheldon Davis, Pam Phillips Suzanne Tabaka, Jim Roye, Jerry Stone, Beverly Dearth, Kathleen Warren, Bob Liebertz, Grace Campbell Susan Grant, Bruce Phillips, Anna Richardson, Nate Statly (MSU shooting victim) ~ friend of Joey Nicholas Kris Purdy ~ niece of Grace Erwin; Julie Newell ~ cousin of Pam Phillips Elizabeth ~ sister-in law of Pat Garvey and Andy ~ nephew of Pat Garvey Linda Thompson and her sister, Shirley Kircoff Joan Velis and family; John Branch ~ father of Christie Piastowski Dave Schulz ~ nephew of Carol and Mike Graham Cousins of Terry Earnley and Jennifer Speiles ~ friend of Terry Earnley Lois Włudyka and John Candiloro ~ friends of August Kornowicz Ray and Mary Clark ~ neighbors of Don and Meta Tulley Richard Rosenberg and Mike Hyatt ~ friends of Judy McGregor Sarah and Mason Young ~ family of Judy McGregor Ben Abela ~ son-in-law of August and Faith Kornowicz Macaylah Whitlock ~ daughter of the Rev. Kellie and Marc Whitlock Pamela Serene ~ daughter of the late Marilyn Allen, Nicole Snead ~ daughter of Bill VanEck Nancy Kreipke ~ mother of Christian; Rich McKenzie ~ son of Jean Erin Lewis ~ daughter of Pattie Benoit; Phyllis Badman ~ niece of Georgia Hunt Christie Piastowski ~ daughter of Karen Bright; Joe Ducsay ~ friend of Mike and Carol Graham Cyndi Knecht ~ daughter of the late Doris; Joe Perko ~ friend of Wanda Seymour David Bonandrini ~ son of Ben; Gideon Janku ~ great nephew of Bob Westbrook

Judy Siegfried ~ sister-in-law of Pam Phillips; Randy Tillman ~ son of Gloria Rubbo Mary Rayes ~ friend of Pat Hutchison; Adam Schilling and Eric Shilling ~ grandsons of Ron and Janet Frank Donald Keller III ~ son of Jan Lapenta; Scott Davis ~ son of Sheldon and Marion Davis