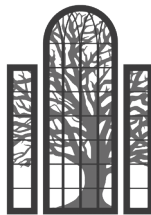




PERHAPS YOU WERE BORN
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS
ESTHER 4:14

18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 26, 2021



University Presbyterian Church

3240 Dalrymple Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802
(225)383-0345 • www.upcbr.org

Co-Pastors: Mamie Broadhurst and Patti Snyder
Choir Director: David Walters Organist: Anne Maverick Ministers: The people of this church

18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 26, 2021

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

We worship today gathered in Spirit, realizing perhaps more than ever the nature of the body of Christ. We gather as a resurrection people even in our time of loss and uncertainty. As we gather may we be strengthened by the Spirit who knows no boundaries.

As you prepare for worship together you may wish to light a candle representing the presence of God with you and concerns, laments, desires for healing, confessions or prayers of thanksgiving that you are particularly holding in the light of Christ today.

PRELUDE

If the Lord Had not Been on Our Side
Heinrich Scheidemann

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS, AND CONCERNS

Melanie Driscoll

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

We have come to this moment from many places and perspectives.

**Soon we will walk with you, O God,
into the world to serve all people.**

We come opening our fisted thinking and
leaving behind our old securities.

**Soon we will walk with you, O God,
into the world to live in your way.**

We come leaving behind all which holds us back;
leaving behind all which keeps us from following you.

**Soon we will walk with you, O God,
into the world to work with all people.**

We come leaving behind the fears which bind us;
leaving behind the hurts which damage us.

**May it be soon, O God, that we will walk with you
recognizing your presence in each moment.**

*Everyone is invited to join in speaking aloud the **bold** portions of the liturgy
in the bulletin.*

CALL TO CONFESSION (*responsive*)

Mamie Broadhurst

Sometimes our words and actions reflect that we are salt for the world. But then come those moments when we are not careful with our lives and we lose our flavor and our way.

Let us confess our sins to God, so we might know forgiveness and a glad reunion.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Called to be your people, Living God - why do we find it so hard to answer? You ask us to speak out against injustice, and we whisper because we are afraid someone might disagree. You ask us to see the pain and poverty around us, but we close our eyes. You tell us that everyone, and each one, is created in your image, yet we persist in judging others by our differences. Forgive us, God of the past and Creator of the future. May we be the ones who go out into the world with courage, bearing your gifts of peace, of hope, and of healing.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (*responsive*)

God's hopes for us are crystal clear. With forgiveness, God restores us to new life; with love, God sends us out to live as faithful people.

God uses the building blocks of grace, hope, love, and peace to create new hearts, new lives for us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS (*unison*)

You are the Lord, giver of mercy

You are the Christ, giver of mercy.

You are the Lord, giver of mercy.

WE EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*unison*)

O God, by your Spirit tell us what we need to hear, and show us what we ought to do, to follow you fully. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Esther 7:1-10

Mark 9:38-50

SERMON

Patti Snyder

WE RESPOND WITH DEDICATION

OFFERING OF GIFTS

During this time you are encouraged to consider your response to the work of Christ in the world today, making a commitment of time, talents, and resources. Please remember your family, neighbors, the wider community, and the church in your offering. Although many things are shifting, please continue to honor previous commitments to the best of your ability.

If you choose to contribute to the work of Christ through UPC at this time, on line giving is available via the GIVE tab on our website (www.upcbr.org) or by texting “upcbr (space) and then the number of dollars” to 73256.

INVITATION

ANTHEM

O God, Have Mercy

Henry Purcell

Dayton, Ohio: The Sacred Music Press, 1979.

O God, be merciful; make pure, Lord, my heart.

Forgive my transgressions. I cry to Thee.

Have mercy, O God.

Uphold me, O Lord. Take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Create in me a clean heart, O God.

O Lord, open wide my lips, and my mouth shall praise your name.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

Like a master chef, you add these gifts we offer to the ingredients of grace, hope, joy, and peace to create new lives, new communities, new joy in those around us. Receive our gifts in the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

BAPTISM

*This morning Tanner Short and Stephanie Launey bring their infant daughter,
Camille Elizabeth Short for the sacrament of infant baptism.*

INTRODUCTION

HYMN No. 486 vs 2-4

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

sung to the tune of Hymn No. 83

SCRIPTURE

QUESTIONS OF PARENTS AND CONGREGATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BAPTISM

PASTORAL PRAYER

WELCOME

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

CHARGE and BENEDICTION

May God walk with you this day,

as we seek to walk with those in need.

May God walk with you this day,

as we follow, leaving our fears behind us.

May God walk with you this day,

as we recognize God in the world.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Go with God.

Alleluia and Amen.

POSTLUDE

If the Lord Had not Been on Our Side

J.S. Bach

Some elements of today's worship are taken from www.pcusa.org/peacemakingoffering and Thom Shuman Lectionary Liturgies <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
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