

Our Service of Worship for September 19, 2021
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
Westwood First Presbyterian Church **Cincinnati, OH**



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “*Children of the Heavenly Father*”—arr. Franklin D. Ashdown

During the Prelude, we invite you to take a moment to prepare for worship.

** Call to Worship (responsive)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

And also with you.

Lost, wandering without purpose, meaning, value, or place.

We wander lost. But God’s Spirit descends like a dove upon us.

We hear the ancient words that name and claim us as God’s own.

We are cleansed, refreshed, and made new by those words.

Opening Prayer

** Hymn No. 263: “*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*” *

A Time of Confession

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession (unison)

Merciful God, in baptism you grafted us into the body of Christ, promising us forgiveness of sin and new life. But we fail to live as forgiven people. We keep destructive habits and hold grudges. We allow our past to hold us hostage and are reluctant to welcome holiness. In your loving-kindness have mercy on us and free us from sin. Remind us of promises you have made to us in baptism so that we may live as your people, claimed in the waters of promise. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Moment of Silent Confession (*Silent, personal prayers may be offered.*)

Assurance of Pardon—(based on Isaiah 41:10)

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us also forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

** Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination and Scripture Reading: Philippians 2:1-11; Mark 9:30-37*

Sermon: “*Defining Greatness*”

A Time of Offering

[No collection will be taken. Please place your offerings in the collection plate just outside the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity!]

Invitation

Offertory Prayer (unison)

Holy Spirit, come upon us this day. We feel your joy and delight as we celebrate this glorious day. With a sense of happiness and gratitude, we eagerly offer you these gifts for your ministry in this community and beyond. May all who call upon your name be saved from selfishness and filled with God-honoring habits of generous giving. All praise and glory be unto you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Opening and Presentation

Isabelle Jade Kuethe, daughter of Curtis and Maggie Kuethe

** Profession of Faith: The Apostles Creed (unison)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic⁺ Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Baptism and Laying On of Hands

Welcome

Solo: *"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"*—arr. Hal H. Hopson
Travis Pearce, tenor

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (unison)

[During the pause in the prayer, feel free to call out the name of someone for whom prayer is requested, or briefly, a joy or concern on your heart. The prayer concludes with the Lord's Prayer, offered 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.

** Hymn No. 467: *"How Great Thou Art"* *

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: *"Holy God, We Praise Your Name"*—arr. Henry Kihlken

* The words to the hymns and readings are included with the order of worship.

Where indicated (**) please rise, and stand as you are able.

+ "catholic," here means "universal," and is not a reference to the Catholic Church.



Rev, Dr. Jeff Colarossi
Guest Preacher

Heather MacPhail
Organist/Music Director

Jeri Rathkamp
Lay Worship Leader

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise—Hymn # 263

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible, hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might,
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. Thou reignest in glory, Thou reignest in light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

How Great Thou Art—Hymn # 467

1. O 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: 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!
2. When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;
Refrain
3. 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 then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"
Refrain

First Scripture Reading: Philippians 2:1-11—Imitating Christ's Humility

¹ If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:30-37—Who Is the Greatest?

³⁰They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”



Moment for Meditation—On Presbyterian Baptism

“The sacrament of baptism, the sign and seal of God’s grace and our response, is the foundational recognition of Christian commitment. It is appropriately celebrated following the reading and the proclaiming of the Word, and shall include statements concerning the biblical meaning of baptism, the responsibility to be assumed by those desiring baptism for themselves or their children and the nurture to be undertaken by the church.

Those desiring the sacrament of baptism for their children or for themselves shall make vows that (a) profess their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, (b) renounce evil and affirm their reliance on God’s grace, (c) declare their intention to participate actively and responsibly in the worship and mission of the church, (d) declare their intention to provide for the Christian nurture of their child. The congregation shall (e) profess its faith, using the Apostles’ Creed, (f) voice its support of the baptized, (g) express its willingness to take responsibility for the nurture of those baptized.

The minister of Word and Sacrament offers a baptismal prayer. This prayer (a) expresses thanksgiving for God’s covenant faithfulness, (b) gives praise for God’s **reconciling acts**, (c) asks that the Holy Spirit, attend and empower the baptism, make the water a water of redemption and rebirth, and equip the church for faithfulness. The baptismal formula is: “_____, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

~ The PC(USA) Book of Order, Directory for Worship

