



First  
**Presbyterian**  
Church  
Henderson, Texas

# THIRTEENTH SUNDAY

## AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2020

— *Gathering* —

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

Rev. Michele R. Goff

### OPENING SENTENCES

Jan Pennal, Liturgist

From whirlwind and burning bush, in still of night and in sheer silence—

***God calls the faithful to sacred work.***

Beckoning us to turn aside, inviting us to stand on holy ground—

***God welcomes the faithful into sacred space.***

Come, God is calling.

***Let us worship the Lord!***

### MUSIC

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

### CONFESSION

Let us confess the ways we have denied Christ's claim on our lives,  
and disregarded the demands of discipleship.

***Compassionate God, who hears the cries of the oppressed, you call us to resist evil and hold fast to what is good, to take up the cross and commit our lives to the cause of love.***

***But we are afraid to confront powers that privilege some and diminish others; we do not want to lose the security we enjoy. Forgive us.***

***Open our ears to hear your voice, our eyes to look upon neighbors in need, and our hearts to respond with compassion, that we might follow the way of Christ.***

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. ***Thanks be to God.***

— *Word* —

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE

The epistle lesson for today is from Paul's letter to the Romans chapter 12, verses 9 through 12.  
The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Listen to the word of the Lord.

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

Our gospel reading is from the gospel according to Matthew chapter 16, verses 21 through 28.  
Listen to the word of God.

Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. ***Thanks be to God.***

**DESCRIPTION OF PRAISE**

To the Lord our God, Alpha and Omega, be all glory and honor forever. **Amen.**

**MUSIC**

— *Response* —

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With one mind in Christ, and one heart in the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord of heaven and earth.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for the church . . . Make us one body in Christ, many as we are, and empower us by the gifts of your Spirit to live in faith and seek your will in the world.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for the earth . . . Do not let the rising waters overwhelm us.  
Help us to escape from the trap we have made, and to seek the healing of your creation.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for all nations . . . Let the leaders of the nations learn from you to have regard for the poor and lowly and to deliver them from their trouble.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for this community . . . Give rest to those whose work seems endless.  
Hear the cries of those who are oppressed, who endure harsh treatment and hard labor.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for loved ones . . . Protect children who are in jeopardy; encourage those who struggle against evil; sustain those whose work is to care for others.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Enable us, O God, by the power of your Spirit, to live our lives in a way that is worthy of the gospel, to the glory of the name that is above all names,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER—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.***

**MUSIC****INVITATION TO OFFERING**

We continue to do the work of the church. We are thankful for your dedicated commitment.

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Let us pray to dedicate our gifts: Merciful and gracious God, you abound in steadfast love and faithfulness. With gratitude, we bring our gifts to you. Bless these gifts and bless our lives that together we may share your mercy and grace for the world you dearly love. **Amen.**

— *Sending* —

**BLESSING AND CHARGE**

The blessing of one God—Spirit, Son, and Father—be with you now and always. **Alleluia!**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Amen.**

**MUSIC**

***“Serving God, Honoring Creation, Embracing Differences”***

