

**LORD'S PRAYER**

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as 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.*

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

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.

**OFFERTORY**                      **A Sower Came from Ancient Hills**                      Ensemble

**\*DOXOLOGY #607**

*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 DEDICATION**

*God of unending gifts, we praise you for your abundant goodness.  
As you are generous, we want to be generous too.  
May the gifts we bring extend your generosity into the world,  
so that all people may be made whole by your goodness and grace. Amen.*  
— Sending —

**\*HYMN #79**                      **Light Dawns on a Weary World**

**\*BLESSING AND CHARGE**

May the blessing of the Trinity—holy, holy, holy Lord—be with you now and always.

**Alleluia!**

Lead a life worthy of your calling, giving glory to God in all things. **Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**                      **The Holy City**                      Joshua Allen

*You may sit after the light passes you in the aisle.*



*Serving God,  
Honoring Creation,  
Embracing Differences*



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**HENDERSON, TX**  
**8th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**July 23, 2023**

(\*) Please rise in body or in spirit  
*Bold Italic Letters* indicate congregational response

— *Gathering* —  
Surely the Presence

Joshua Allen  
Rev. Michele Goff  
Liturgist: Kelly Weaver

PRELUDE

WELCOME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come. We wait. *We long. We hope.*

We suffer. We pray. *We rejoice. We sing.*

We know we are children of God. *We wait for Christ to set all things right.*

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

\*HYMN #406 We Are Standing on Holy Ground

CONFESSION

There is goodness within us that grows like fresh wheat.

There is also sin within us that chokes that wheat like weeds.

Let us bring all of who we are to God, who can separate out what is good,  
so that we are not overcome with evil.

Together we pray:

*Ever-present God, there is no place where you are not with us.*

*You see us at our worst and at our best.*

*There is much we would hide from you— the ways we harm your creation,  
the ways we mistreat others, the ways we turn away when we should turn toward.*

*Even as you know us, forgive us.*

*Guide our thoughts, our words, our actions,*

*that you may delight in us as we delight in you.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved, hear the good news: God knows us and forgives us and leads us in the way of  
everlasting life. *Thanks be to God!*

\* GLORIA PATRI #581

*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.*

— *Word* —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 28:10-19a

Bible p. 24, LG p. 30-31

The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Listen to the word of the Lord.

SECOND TESTAMENT READING

Romans 8:12-25

Bible p. 147-148, LG p. 191-192

Listen to the word of the Lord

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-43

Bible p. 14, LG p. 17-18

Hear God's wisdom for us.

The wisdom of God for the people of God. *Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

Like Heaven

Rev. Michele Goff

DESCRIPTION OF PRAISE

— *Response* —

\*HYMN #852

When the Lord Redeems the Very Least

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.32-33*

*The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ  
has set the pattern for the church's mission.*

*His human life involves the church in the common life of all people.*

*His service to men and women commits the church*

*to work for every form of human well-being.*

*His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering*

*so that it sees the face of Christ*

*in the faces of persons in every kind of need.*

*His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity  
that marks human relations, and the awful consequences*

*of the church's own complicity in injustice.*

*In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming,*

*the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society*

*and of God's victory over all wrong.*

*The church follows this pattern in the form of its life*

*and in the method of its action.*

*So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray in the Spirit, who helps us in our weakness,  
interceding with sighs too deep for words.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

...In the Spirit, we pray to you, O God,  
confident that all things work together for good  
for those who love you  
and are called according to your purpose.  
Above all, we give you thanks, O God,  
that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*