

for the peacemakers and the warmongers,
may clear truth and stern love lead us to harmony;
 for the silenced and the propagandists,
may we speak our own words in truth;
 for the unemployed and the overworked,
may our mark on this earth be kindly and creative;
 for the troubled and the secure,
may we live together as wounded healers;
 for the homeless and the pampered,
may our homes be simple, warm, and welcoming;
 for the vibrant and the dying,
may we all die to sin and live to love. Amen.

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.*

[see insert]

— Sending —

*HYMN #815 Give to the Winds Thy Fears

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

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

Alleluia!

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

POSTLUDE

Lift High the Cross

Joshua Allen

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



*Serving God,
 Honoring Creation,
 Embracing Differences*



Copyrights: All music used is under OneLicense.net #A-736032 & CCLI License #A-1844922



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
HENDERSON, TX
 14th Sunday after Pentecost
 September 3, 2023

https://pbs.twimg.com/media/FoxX_VEXEAQjTzz.jpg:large

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

— *Gathering* —

PRELUDE For He is Like a Refiner's Fire (from Handel's Messiah) Joshua Allen
WELCOME Claudia Morgan-Gray
***CALL TO WORSHIP** Liturgist: Kathy Porter

God calls us each by name as we gather on holy ground.

We come to this place, seeking to know the great I AM.

Let us worship God.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

***HYMN #52** Go Down Moses

CONFESSION

The apostle Paul tells us:

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

For the times we have failed to do this, let us confess to God.

Sometimes it sounds too hard:

deny ourselves, take up our crosses, lose our lives?

Forgive us, Savior, but we'd rather you do it for us.

Forgive us, Christ, but we are overwhelmed with what you ask of us.

We long to see you come in glory, but fear the road we must take.

Have mercy on our weakness. Be patient with our stumbling.

Do not leave us behind, even when we are slow to follow,

and lead us in your ways of peace.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ does not abandon us, but died for us, was raised for us, and loves us still.

This is the good news that prevails!

In Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we are forgiven!

***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 Exodus 3:1-15 Bible p. 48, Lg p. 62

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

SECOND TESTAMENT READING Romans 12:9-21 Bible p. 151-152, Lg. p. 197

Hear God's word for us.

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-28

Bible p. 17, Lg. p. 22

Hear God's wisdom for us.

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

SERMON

Following

Rev. Michele Goff

DESCRIPTION OF PRAISE

— *Response* —

***HYMN #701**

Sanctuary (Lord, Prepare Me)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Nicene Creed

*We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.*

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,

*eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.*

*For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.*

*On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.*

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Loving God, you cause rain to fall on the just and the unjust.

Hear our prayers for your church and world: for the hungry and the overfed,
may we have enough;

for the mourners and the mockers,

may we laugh together;

for the victims and the oppressors,

may we share power wisely;