

**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**

**OFFERTORY** People of the Lord (Scheer) 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**

*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 —

**\*HYMN #80** The Trees of the Field (You Shall Go Out with Joy)

**\*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** A Prayer (Stickles) Joshua Allen

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



Rev. Michele R. Goff.....Pastor  
Joshua Allen.....Music Director  
Debbi Ricci.....Admin. Assist.



*Serving God,  
Honoring Creation,  
Embracing Differences*



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HENDERSON, TX  
15th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 10, 2023**

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

— Gathering —

**PRELUDE** Prelude in E Major (Bach, BWV 937) Joshua Allen  
**WELCOME** Rev. Michele Goff  
**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Liturgist: Carol Scoggins

Where two or three are gathered together,  
***God is in their midst.***

We gather to proclaim the promises,  
***to retell the stories,***

to remember who we are as people of God.

***Let us worship!***

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**\*HYMN #749** We Are Called (Come! Live in the Light)

**CONFESSION**

Let us lay aside the works of evil and put on the armor of goodness.

Let us live honorably, putting on the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom we confess together:

***Beautiful Savior,***

***you have made your law clear: Love. Love one another.***

***Owe one another nothing but love.***

***Do no wrong to a neighbor.***

***But we have not mastered what it is to love.***

***We have fallen short, causing harm to others***

***through careless action and thoughtless lack of action.***

***Forgive us.***

***Teach us how to love more fully, more perfectly,***

***as generously as you love, following your law and fulfilling your will.***

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Christ does not judge us harshly, but forgives all our sin and leads us into new life.

***We will not take this forgiveness for granted,***

***but will let it transform how we live and love.***

**\*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 12:1-14

Bible p. 56, LG p. 72

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

**SECOND TESTAMENT READING** Romans 13:8-14 Bible p. 152, LG p. 197-198

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 18:15-20

Bible p. 19, LG p. 24

Hear God's wisdom for us.

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

**SERMON**

Being a Flock

Rev. Michele Goff

**DESCRIPTION OF PRAISE**

— Response—

**\*HYMN #799**

I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry

**\*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**

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.***

...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.**