

In a world aching to be made new, we cry out with those who suffer the pains of what powers and principalities extract from the world's poorest. We cry out with those suffering from illness and disease, at whom the world turns a callous glance. We cry out with those stinging from the sins of white supremacy. We cry out with those seeking justice, equality, and peace — peace, at all times, in all ways.

In a world stretching toward wholeness, we celebrate with those whose lives bear the fruit of your Spirit and seek to share in your call to partnership. We celebrate with those whose efforts are making the world new. We celebrate with all who gather to earnestly seek your transforming work in the world.

Make us a world that grows into the shape of your communion table, where all are welcomed and all are fed. Make us a people who grow your family by practices of mutuality, generosity and justice. And may we be found to be witnesses, when Jesus returns, to the truth of who we were created to be — people who belong to each other, people who belong to you, O God, in your Son, Jesus. **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 bulletin insert)

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



*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
 18th Sunday after Pentecost
 World Communion Sunday
 October 1, 2023**

<https://www.janrichardsonimages.com/>

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

Guest Preacher: Rev Brendan McLean

PRELUDE Uyai Mose (Come All You People) *Zimbabwean welcome song* Ensemble

WELCOME Liturgist: Claudia Morgan Gray

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather from the west to the east, from the south to the north,
to celebrate the God of peace

who accompanies us in our acts of peace.

This God of peace accompanies us in each and every circumstance around us.

We praise God's name! Amen!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

***HYMN #530** **One Bread, One Body**

CONFESSION

Faced with God's goodness we recognize our failings.

In the knowledge of God's mercy, we dare tell the truth about ourselves and our world.

In the confidence of God's children let us confess our sins.

Living God who sees us,

***You see us in the heights of our joy, the depths of our suffering,
and everything in between.***

Yet, we often shut our eyes

***to the suffering and oppression of our neighbors,
favoring self over solidarity.***

***You hear our voices, whether a whisper or a wail,
along with everything we do not say aloud.***

Yet, we close our ears to sounds of pain,

***cries for help and support, and pleas for understanding,
favoring our own wants over the basic needs of others.***

***Forgive us, God of all things, and help us to see and hear all of Your creation
and, with the courage Your liberating love abundantly provides,***

walk alongside each other towards the flourishing of everyone and all the earth.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

When we lift up our souls to God, God does not put us to shame.

God forgives us, leads us in the truth, and leads us in what is right.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***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 READING **Hebrews 6:13-20 NRSVue** Bible p. 207-208, LG p. 268

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

SECOND READING **Psalms 139:7-18 NRSVue** Bible p. 545-546, LG p. 710

Listen to the word of the Lord.

THIRD READING **Genesis 16:7-14 NRSVue** Bible p. 12, LG p. 15

Hear God's wisdom for us.

Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Have I really seen God and remained alive...?" Rev Brendan McLean

ASCRPTION OF PRAISE

— **Response** —

***HYMN #769**

For Everyone Born

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried;

he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand

of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;

the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

From every place on this planet, we turn our face to you, O God.

Gather us, all your people, together, to pray.

In the midst of the forces which would separate us,

bind us in your love as the Church, together.

Strengthen us through the grace of your people gathered, no matter how we gather,
with the truth of your presence.