

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Come and Bring Light (Keil)

Joshua Allen

***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 the harvest,
you are continually planting the seeds of your love
in our world and in our lives.
As we bring our gifts to you,
may they be seeds of your grace, peace, and hope,
planted deeply in our community. Amen.*

— Sending —

***HYMN #753 Prayer of St. Francis (Make Me a Channel of Your Peace)**

***BLESSING AND CHARGE**

The blessing of the holy, triune God, who was and is and is to come—
first and last, beginning and end, Alpha and Omega— be with you now and always. **Alleluia!**

Go in peace to love the Lord your God with heart and soul and mind and strength,
and to love your neighbor as yourself. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

In This Very Room

Joshua Allen

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



*Serving God,
Honoring Creation,
Embracing Differences*



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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
HENDERSON, TX**

**22nd Sunday after Pentecost
October 29, 2023**

<https://gregsloop.files.wordpress.com/2019/06/072716matt2237-none.jpg>

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

— **Gathering** —
How Can I Say

PRELUDE

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

God speaks to us:

You shall be holy, *for I am holy.*

You shall not hate, *but love your neighbor as yourself.*

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

***HYMN #300** They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love
(We Are One in the Spirit)

CONFESSION

God watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

We have righteousness within us, but we also have wickedness.

Therefore, let us confess together:

God of love, your commandments are so simple:

love God, love neighbor, love self.

Yet we cannot always muster that love.

Love for you seems too abstract and distant.

Love for our neighbors seems too impractical and draining.

Love for ourselves seems too impossible and unimportant.

But you are truly the God of love;

if there is anyone who can help us love, it is you.

*Shower us with your love so we might have the greatest example,
and help us learn from you.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

It is true: we are beloved of God. The God who loves us does not condemn us.

We will live in the glory of God's 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

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Bible p. 184, LG p. 239-240

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

SECOND TESTAMENT READING

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Bible p. 191-192, LG p. 248

Hear God's wisdom for us.

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:34-46

Bible p. 24, LG p. 30-31

Hear God's wisdom for us.

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

SERMON

Start with Love

Rev. Michele Goff

DESCRIPTION OF PRAISE

— **Response** —

The Gift of Love

***HYMN #693**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

SENTENCES FROM SCRIPTURE

*This is the good news, which we have received, in which we stand,
and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast:*

that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,

that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day,

and that he appeared first to the women,

then to Peter, and to the Twelve,

and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end;

he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Our shepherd satisfies our needs;

in faith, let us pray to the Lord.

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

... Loving shepherd, lead and guide us—

in green pastures and by still waters,

in right paths and through dark valleys,

until we feast with you in glory

and dwell in your house forever;

through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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.