

Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church

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August 15, 2021 ~ Indoor Worship

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Just a few notes to keep in mind:

- ◆ It is mandatory that ALL wear a mask, per recent decision from Session. Please see a Session member with questions.
- ◆ For the immediate future we will not have congregational singing indoors.

Prelude

Kelly Polson

Welcome

Jeff Mortimer

Call to Worship

Jeff Mortimer

One: In these difficult times

we come to be strengthened through prayer, community, word and action.

All: As we gather this day,

may we open our eyes to the needs of this world,

may we open our ears to the cries of our brothers and sisters,

may we open our hearts to love one another.

One: Let us worship God together.

Opening Song: Open Our Eyes Lord CCLI #1572

Prayer of Reconciliation

Jeff Mortimer

Assurance of Grace:

Prayer of Illumination

Jeff Mortimer

Scripture: Ephesians 6: 10-20 (NLT) (Rev. Dr. Bill Smith)

¹⁰A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹²For we^a are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

¹³Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. ¹⁴Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. ¹⁵For shoes, put on the peace that

comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.^[b] ¹⁶ In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.^[c] ¹⁷ Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.^[d]

¹⁹ And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike.^[e] ²⁰ I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.

Sermon:

Rev. Dr. Bill Smith

Response: Reckless Love CCLI #7089641

Call To Offering

Jeff Mortimer

Offertory

Sung by Elkane Mooh
Who You Say I Am (ccli#7102401)

Prayers of the People:

Rev. Dr. Bill Smith

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is 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.

Closing Song: Spiritual Medley

I'm gonna sing, sing, sing
Swing low, sweet chariot
Oh, when the saints go marchin' in
This train is bound for glory, this train

Charge and Benediction: Rev. Dr. Bill Smith

Postlude: Kelly Polson

Announcements

From the Session: Due to the increase in case counts related to the delta variant of COVID and per CDC guidelines, for now, the Session is requiring that masks be worn for all indoor church activities (worship, M in M, Sunday School, etc) regardless of vaccination status; unvaccinated individuals continue to be required to wear masks indoors. This is effective August 15, and the decision will be re-evaluated as the transmission rates of the delta variant of COVID change. Thank you for your cooperation, and for your care for our community, as we continue to deal with this pandemic

News from Christian Education Committee:

- Church picnic today (following worship) in the church's backyard. Everyone is welcome! Food and games provided!
- Sunday School classes begin September 19th, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. The parents can enjoy coffee and visiting before church while the children are in class. We will bring the children back to the sanctuary for the Children's sermon at 10:15 and then the children can sit with their parents during the rest of the service. There will be a PreK - 2nd grade class and a 3rd-5th grade class
- M&M begins October 6 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. A meal will be served at 6 p.m. We are looking into the possibility of having part of the program on zoom for those kids who cannot attend.

Volunteers Needed:

...We need one person each Sunday to serve as a Greeter and one person each Sunday to serve as an Usher for Sunday worship. Please let Becky Brandt know when you are available to help and she will build a calendar. Call/text Becky at (218)779-0427 or email her at thebrandtfam@gmail.com.

School Supplies Drive for Highland Elementary school

Please donate any of these school supplies from the following list. Please drop them off at church on Sunday, August 22nd or 29th. If you would like to donate money instead, please make out checks to Spirit of Life and write School supplies in the memo line. If there are any left over items, they will be donated to our Sunday School program. We also need 8-10 single hole, hole punchers for Sunday School. Any questions, please contact Karen Johnson, Thanks. Click on the following link for the list of needs:

Thank you

I would like to thank everyone who helped with and prayed with us at

Ruthi's Prayer Service on August 10. Pastor Rob found time during an overload week to prepare and lead a beautiful service. A thank you to Kate Olaf and Lisa Smith for the beautiful music. And a big thank you to Eric Scott for the technical support. The love and testimonials for Ruthi were so wonderful, heartfelt, and furthering in our worship of God.

GriefShare: Many of us have suffered the loss of a loved one, someone dear to our hearts who has been an important part in our lives. The grief that we encounter can be overwhelming at times and causes us to reach out for help. *Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church* is initiating a 13 session Christ centered program produced by a network of thousands of grief recovery groups meeting around the world. The group will meet weekly on Thursday evenings at 6:16. With GriefShare you will learn how to walk the journey of grief and be supported on the way. It is a place where grieving people find healing and hope. We will begin the series on **Thursday evening, September 9, at 6:16 to 8:16 pm** in person in the Sanctuary of Spirit of Life Church. (We will skip the week of Thanksgiving and then restart the weekly Thursday series on December 2.) This will be the second series that we have offered with past participants recommending that the program be repeated. Please contact Bob Shepard at shepardsprairie@gmail.com or Jaqui Hicks at jahutchinson23@gmail.com or the church office if you have questions or if you or someone you know would like to participate.

The Presbytery is offering the **Anti-Racism Spiritual Pilgrimage** again this fall, and it's open to anyone with an interest. Several members of Spirit of Life, including Pastor Rob and Clerk of Session Denise Lewis, participated. You can contact them directly with questions that are not answered online (see link below).

This pilgrimage, while it *is* a meaningful time commitment, is also a chance to integrate action with reflection, and develop spiritual capacities for anti-racist action that will serve you your whole life long.

We're asking you to take **30 minutes a week** from September through May (with breaks for Advent/Christmas and Holy Week/Easter) to practice sustained, habitual engagement with anti-racist practice. There will be five required small group Zoom gatherings, and extra opportunities to gather as a church (in-person or virtually as your church practice and policies allow) or for other special events throughout the year.

- Learn some basics about this opportunity, you can click on the page introducing our 2020-21 journey (please ignore the exact dates, as they refer to LAST year) Understand more about the basics of what a "pilgrimage" means in the context of anti-racism and in a virtual setting <https://files.constantcontact.com/17207f49001/36a7f98e-e742-44f5-af3b-038e013e4a83.pdf?rdr=true>

To register, use this link: <https://forms.gle/V1dmgfeDKvv5soVh6>