



Fritz Eichenberg, "Christ of the Breadlines," woodcut, 1950.

Sunday September 25, 2022

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF BELLA VISTA**

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A SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2022 — 10:00 AM

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

An asterisk () indicates that those who are able may stand;
bold type — please respond in unison.*

WE GATHER AND PREPARE OUR HEARTS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

PRELUDE *“When Morning Gilds the Skies”* Dan Edwards

CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God all my life long ...
who made heaven and earth, the sea,
and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.
The Lord watches over the strangers;
God upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked God brings to ruin.
The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion,
for all generations. Praise the Lord!

***HYMN # 475** *“Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing”*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound?
By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it?
Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into
Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have
been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as
Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so
we too might walk in newness of life. Let us then confess our
sin to our God, who has made us, who knows us, and who
loves us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, giver of all that is good, we recognize that you are the source of all that is. The breath of life is a gift from your generous hand. The food we eat is grown in the world you sustain. The community that supports us is called into being by your saving activity. Everything we have is a gift from you. So why do we treat life as though you are parsimonious with us? Why do we believe we must hoard our blessings? It is our sin that makes us live as though we don't trust your goodness. So forgive us, we pray. Teach us again what it is to rely upon you. Remind us that we are always in your loving care. Fill us with grace and goodwill, that our hearts might overflow from the fullness of your love...

(Moment of silence for personal confession.)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing: it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one might boast.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

(Please take this opportunity to “pass the peace” to those around you.)

*GLORIA PATRI #581

WE ENCOUNTER THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty, eternal God, silence within us every voice but your own. Prepare our hearts to receive your lively word. May your spirit open our minds to receive your inspiration. And having heard your word, may we be doers of the word and not hearers only, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 91:1-6

Mack Bean

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
**will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.”**

For he will deliver you from the snare of the hunter
and from the deadly pestilence;
he will cover you with his pinions,

and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and defense.
You will not fear the terror of the night
or the arrow that flies by day
or the pestilence that stalks in darkness
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

ANTHEM

"In Joyful Praise!"

Douglas Wagner

Performed by the Chancel Bell Choir

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 16:19-31

19 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. 20 And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, 21 who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. 22 The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. 24 He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.' 25 But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received

your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony.

²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— ²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ ³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

SERMON

“Seeing The Unseen”

Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

*HYMN #438

“Rock Of Ages”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Apostles’ 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 THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

All that we have, all that we are is from God. Remembering the abundant life that God has offered us, let us dedicate a portion to return to God, the giver of all. The offering will now be received.

OFFERTORY “*Consecrated, Lord, to Thee*” Douglas Wagner

*DOXOLOGY #606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Eternal God, from the abundance of your creation we have all we need. You have blessed us richly. Bless us again by receiving these gifts, multiplying them and using them, that we might see your kin-dom at work among us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO MINISTER

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN #630 *“Fairest Lord Jesus”* (vs. 1, 2, 4)

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*GOING FORTH #695 *“Change My Heart O God”* (vs. 1)

*POSTLUDE *“Postlude In Classic Style”* D. Wells