



*Whoever is faithful in a very little
is faithful also in much.
Luke 16:10a*

September 18, 2016

The Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Celebration of Worship

* If you are able, please stand.

Prelude

Préambule, Op. 31, No. 1

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Kevin Graf, organ

* **Call to Worship** (*responsively*)

The Rev. Dr. David Smazik

Leader: O people of God, praise the Lord!

People: Blessed is God's name forever.

Leader: From the break of day to setting sun,

People: let us praise the name of the Lord.

* **Hymn 756**

O God of Every Nation

Llangloffan

Confession and Pardon

The Rev. Sarah Green

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Sovereign God, we confess that we have not turned away from sin. We seek our own self-interest instead of serving others. We glorify power and wealth instead of worshipping you. Forgive us, God of grace. Teach us to treasure and use all the gifts you have given us to seek the good of all, so that we may be a blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kyrie: Hymn 782, v. 2

Hear My Prayer, O God

Hymn Chant

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon (*responsively*)

Leader: It is hard for us to believe,

People: or to understand Christ's great love for us.

Leader: Yet the meaning is clear;

People: Our sins are forgiven.

* **Response: Hymn 586**

Alleluia

Alleluia 7

* **Passing of the Peace**

A Time for Young Christians

Alexandra Mead

A Blessing of the Backpacks

O Holy God, the time is come when school begins. As these your children begin their studies, we ask a blessing on their backpacks in which they carry the books and other things that they will use to learn. O Lord of Life and Love,

Response: Hear our prayer.

Bless, O God, all who will teach our children in the coming days. Give them the wisdom to find inspiration for each child. Give them the energy, creativity, and love that will make their work a blessing to our children. O Lord of Life and Love, **R**

Bless, O God, all school administrators that they may be faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to their care. Make them fair and merciful, able to do their crucial work with a spirit of grace and compassion. O Lord of Life and Love, **R**

Bless, O God, each one gathered here that we will seek every opportunity to grow in our knowledge and love of you in all our classes for children, youth and adult learners. O Lord of Life and Love, **R**

Prayer for Illumination (*unison*)

Living God, help us to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 8:18-22

(Old Testament, page 666)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Teach Me to Fly

Mark Miller

The Chancel Choir

Hanna Neil, solo

*Like a bird who has fallen, I rest in your hands, hoping and praying you will understand,
and fill in the pieces never fully there, healing my soul, Lord, with your love and care.
Can you make up the difference? Will you teach me to fly? Can you lift me to freedom in the boundless sky?
Can I dwell in you safely? Will you fill my heart? Can you ready me for a brand new start?
God, I wait here before you filled with fear and praise, searching for courage to accept your grace.
Will you bless and forgive me? Can I be fully yours? Will you wash me in mercy 'til my spirit soars?
Oh, you can make up the difference! You will teach me to fly! You can raise up my spirit past the reasons why!
I can dwell in you safely, you will fill my heart. Lord, please ready me for a brand new start.*

Second Scripture Reading:

Luke 16:1-13

(New Testament, page 74)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Making Difficult Decisions”

Rev. Smazik

* Hymn 346

For the Healing of the Nations

St. Thomas

Greeting/Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

(Please sign and pass the friendship pad, found in the pew, to the person next to you. Offering envelopes and prayer request cards are located in the pew pockets for your convenience. Donations may be made online through our website. Cards will be collected with the offering.)

Offertory

Hymn of Creation

Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

The Chancel Choir

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise, that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies. I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day, the moon shines full at His command, and all the stars obey. I sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food. He formed the creatures with His word, and then pronounced them good. Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed where'er I turn my eye! If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze, on the sky. There's not a plant or flower below, but makes Thy glories known, and clouds arise and tempests blow by order from Thy throne. While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care, and everywhere that man can be, Thou, God art present there.

* Doxology (Hymn 606)

Old Hundredh

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

* Prayer of Dedication

Service of Commissioning for Teachers and Music Ministries

Sisters and brothers in Christ, our confessions remind us that the church gathers to receive instruction, strength, and comfort, to be tested, renewed, and reformed, and to speak and act in the world's affairs as may be appropriate to the needs of the time.

Each of us is called to be the church in the world. Every one of us is endowed by the Spirit with some gift of ministry and is responsible for the integrity of that witness in particular situations. Each member of this congregation is entitled to the guidance and support of the Christian community and is subject to its advice and correction. In turn, all of us, through our abilities, help to guide the church.

To that end, we gather this day to recognize and bless those endowed by Christ and called by this congregation to the ministry of teaching, guiding, and leading.

(To the teachers and leaders)

You have been chosen to teach the people the good news of God's redeeming love in Christ Jesus, our Lord. You have been called to guide your pupils along paths of ministry in response to Christ's call to discipleship. Do you accept this responsibility?

Teachers and Leaders: We do

(From a representative of the children)

Will you guide us and be our friend as we grow up in the church? Will you help us to know how much Jesus loves us? Will you tell and show us what he wants us to do?

Teachers: Yes

(To those involved in the music ministry)

You have been gifted with music in your hearts, in your fingers, in your mouths and in your spirits. You have chosen to be part of the music ministry of this congregation. Will you use your voices, your songs, your instruments and musical skills to serve Christ? Will you lead this congregation in worship and praise?

Music directors and choirs: We will

(To the teachers and musicians)

Will you be led by the Holy Spirit, who works through you to serve the church for your special work and who imparts various gifts of grace to you as you follow Christ?

Teachers and musicians: I will

(To the congregation)

Will those who are able, please stand. Let us affirm our sisters and brothers who have answered God's call to serve as musicians, teachers, and helpers who lead us in the worship and work of the church.

All: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, pray for you, honor your leadership, and assist you, that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

Prayer of Commissioning and Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer *(unison)*

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.

*** Hymn 697**

Take My Life

Hendon

*** Benediction**

Postlude

Toccata in B minor

Kevin Graf, organ

Eugène Gigout (1844-1925)

Participating in the service today are the Reverends Dr. David Smazik and Sarah Green; Alexandra Mead, Director of Christian Education; Matthew Webb, Director of Music; Kevin Graf, Organ Scholar; and the Chancel Choir.
The acolytes are Evan MacGregor and Hanna Neil.

GREETING YOU this morning are Kirsten and Andrew Bergamasco,
and Susan and Kevin Hubbard.

**USHERS: Ray Stark, head usher, Frank Gaden, Marilynn Hummer,
Dave & Shirley Mutchler, Nora Stark,**

Our Fellowship Hour hosts today are Cheryl and Bruce Smith.

The FLOWERS in the sanctuary are given in celebration of the 92nd birthday
of her aunt, Valentina Evans, and in memory of her parents, Dorothy Ann Evans Knotts,
and Daniel M. Knotts, by Mikey Knotts.

Thank you to our Sound Team that faithfully works every Sunday.

OPEN MEETINGS THIS WEEK: *For a full schedule of meetings, go to our website.*

Sunday, Sept 18

- 7:45 a.m. Worship with Communion (Chapel)
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Seminar
- 8:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
NS Mum sale (Order at What's Up Table)
- 11:15 a.m. Confirmation Meeting for parents

Monday, Sept 19

- 12:00 p.m. Circle 12 (Erdman Room)

Tuesday, Sept 20

- 8:00 a.m. Small Group (D. Lisco)
- 10:00 a.m. Tai Chi (Erdman Room, Parish House)
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal

Wednesday, Sept 21

- 10:30 a.m. Bible Study
- 12:00 p.m. Worship (Chapel)
- 4:15 p.m. Midweek
- 4:30 p.m. Bel Melodia (Multi-Purpose Room)
- 5:05 p.m. Bel Canto (Multi-Purpose Room)
- 6:00 p.m. Midweek Family Dinner (Sheffield Hall)
- 6:05 p.m. Tower Choir (Multi-Purpose Room)
- 6:30 p.m. Small Group – N. Verhoef
(Meditation Space – former library)
- 7:00 p.m. High School Youth Group

Thursday, Sept 22

- 9:15 a.m. Christian Yoga (Parish House)
- 7:00 p.m. Circle 2 (Erdman Room)

Friday, Sept 23 *Office closes at noon*

- 9:00 a.m. AAA
- 9:30 a.m. Volunteers (Tower Tidings/Bulletins)

Saturday, Sept 24

- 11:00 a.m. Tower Car Wash (Parish House)
- 3:00 p.m. Green/Sarver Wedding (Sanctuary)

Sunday, Sept 25

- 7:45 a.m. Worship with Communion (Chapel)
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Seminar
- 8:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
NS Mum sale
- 11:00 a.m. Set up for Morristown's Festival
on the Green

Festival on the Green (1:00-5:00 p.m.)

We are a historic church, part of a historic denomination, and we celebrate this history while exploring ways to bring passion and freshness to our worship and congregational life. Join us as we seek to discover Fresh Traditional ways to **proclaim, gather, and nurture**, all toward continuing Jesus Christ's earthly ministry of building God's Kingdom.

**Visitor's Information brochures are in the stands at the entrances
to assist you in finding your way around our campus.**

Visiting with Children?

- **Activity materials** for young worshipers are in the drawers of the literature chests in both vestibules.
- **Infant and child care** is provided during the service in Howard House, the building to the right of the sanctuary.
- **Restrooms:** Please accompany children (under age 10) to the restrooms. (Located through the left door by the bell tables.)

Special Needs?

- **Feel free to ask** ushers and greeters for assistance if you have any questions or special needs. **Large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices** are available from the ushers in the narthex at the back of the church.

Please come again

- **Sunday Worship Schedule:**
 - 7:45 a.m. Worship with Communion
 - 10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
- **Wednesday Morning Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., in the Choir Room**
- **Wednesday Worship Service at Noon in the Chapel**



The Presbyterian Church in Morristown

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