

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 5, 2017

22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time / Proper 26

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*Please sign and pass the Friendship Book (“pew pad”) where you can also record any prayer requests. Our prayer is that you will experience the presence of the Living God as we worship together.*

*We invite you to focus your heart and mind in worship.*

*\* indicates please stand as you are able.*

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Don Meekhof

PRELUDE

“Contemplation”

Organ

*John M. Rasley*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Judy Potter

From Psalm 19:7-10

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.

**The precepts of the Lord are right rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;**

The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever, the ordinances of the Lord are true, and the righteous altogether.

**More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb**

INVOCATION

Rev. Don Meekhof

\*SONGS OF WORSHIP:

**“IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE”**

*(Hymn #62)*

**(VERSE 1)**

Immortal, invisible, God only wise  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

**(VERSE 2)**

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

**(VERSE 3)**

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish – but naught changeth thee.

**(VERSE 4)**

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all praise we would render; O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

**“O THE DEEP, DEEP LOVE OF JESUS”**

*(Hymn #477)*

**(VERSE 1)**

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
vast, unmeasured, boundless, free.  
Rolling as a mighty ocean  
in its fullness over me!  
Underneath me, all around me,  
is the current of his love,  
leading onward, leading homeward  
to that glorious rest above.

**(VERSE 2)**

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
spread his praise from shore to shore!  
He who loves us, ever loves us,  
changes never, nevermore.  
He, who died to save his loved ones,  
intercedes for them above;  
he, who called them his own people,  
watches over them in love.

**(VERSE 3)**

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
love of every love the best,

vast the ocean of his blessing,  
sweet the haven of his rest!  
O the deep, deep love of Jesus—  
for my heaven of heavens is he;  
this my everlasting glory—  
Jesus' mighty love for me!

## TIME OF PRAYER

**Dennis Roginski**

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### **Call to Confession**

When we walk from darkness into light  
we can see ourselves as we really are.  
We see the spots of sin more clearly,  
and we realize that we need God's healing and  
redemption.

Come and confess your sins to God, and wade into the  
river of the Healer's mercy.

### **Prayer of Confession**

**God, you have caught us in our sinful behavior.  
We come to you with the hope of restoration.  
We walk with our heads held high,  
without noticing others and their burdens  
We are even blinded to our own!  
We keep our mouths silenced  
when we are full of stories to share  
about the good things that you have done for us.  
We even keep our actions silenced  
as we become so overwhelmed with the needs of the  
world  
that we do nothing to overcome them.  
Fill us with your peace and with your mercy.  
Free us from the destruction of sin  
and restore to us a life  
lived in you. Amen.**

*[Silent Prayer]*

### **Declaration of Forgiveness**

Peace!

Peace is what you receive from God  
when you know that your sins are forgiven.  
Peace is what you have when you know  
that the destruction of sin cannot harm you,  
Therefore, peace, my brothers and sisters!  
In Jesus we have received forgiveness,  
and we have been restored!

**Thanks be to God!**

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**SONG OF WORSHIP:**

*please remain seated*

**"O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST"**

**(VERSE 1)**

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home!  
Under the shadow of thy throne  
thy saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is thine arm alone,  
and our defense is sure.

**(CHORUS)**

O God you are, you are our help,  
you are our helper.  
To all generations, you will be, forever and ever.  
Our shield, and our eternal hope O Lord,  
you are the Ancient of Days,  
and worthy of our praise.

**(VERSE 2)**

Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received her frame,  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.  
Oh a thousand ages in thy sight  
are like an evening gone;  
short as the watch that ends the night,  
before the rising sun.

**(VERSE 3)**

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guide while life shall last,  
and our eternal home!

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Rev. Don Meekhof**

**OFFERING OF OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS**

**Dennis Roginski**

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**Invitation to the Offering**

Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken,  
let us give thanks,  
by which we offer to God and acceptable worship  
with reverence and awe.

Offer to God the gifts of your life and labor  
and come into God's courts with praise.

**\*Doxology**

**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 Thanksgiving/Dedication**

Lord of the Sabbath,  
we rejoice in offering you these gifts,  
that our lives may show forth the wondrous healing  
of your love in the world. Amen.

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*Please be seated. The ushers will pass the offering plates.*

*The children are excused at this time to attend Junior Chapel*

**Offertory**

**"In My Homeland"**

**Organ**

*Edvard Grieg*

**READING OF THE SCRIPTURES**

**Walter Welch**

**Proverbs 3:13-20 (NIV)**

- <sup>13</sup> Blessed are those who find wisdom,  
those who gain understanding,  
<sup>14</sup> for she is more profitable than silver  
and yields better returns than gold.  
<sup>15</sup> She is more precious than rubies;  
nothing you desire can compare with her.  
<sup>16</sup> Long life is in her right hand;  
in her left hand are riches and honor.  
<sup>17</sup> Her ways are pleasant ways,  
and all her paths are peace.  
<sup>18</sup> She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her;  
those who hold her fast will be blessed.
- <sup>19</sup> By wisdom the LORD laid the earth's foundations,  
by understanding he set the heavens in place;  
<sup>20</sup> by his knowledge the watery depths were divided,  
and the clouds let drop the dew.

## **1 Corinthians 1:18-26 (NIV)**

### **Christ Crucified Is God's Power and Wisdom**

<sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written:

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;  
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

<sup>20</sup> Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than human

wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

**MESSAGE**

**Rev. Don Meekhof**

**“The Wisdom and Power of the Cross”**

**Sermon Text:** “<sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

**1 Cor. 1:23-24**

**\*SONG OF WORSHIP:**

**“I LOVE THY KINGDOM LORD”**

*(HYMN #702)*

**(VERSE 1)**

I love Thy kingdom, Lord,  
The house of Thine abode,  
The church our blessed Redeemer saved  
With His own precious blood.

**(VERSE 2)**

I love Thy church, O God.  
Her walls before Thee stand,  
Dear as the apple of Thine eye,  
And graven on Thy hand.

**(VERSE 3)**

For her my tears shall fall  
For her my prayers ascend,  
To her my cares and toils be given  
Till toils and cares shall end.

**(VERSE 4)**

Beyond my highest joy  
I prize her heavenly ways,  
Her sweet communion, solemn vows,  
Her hymns of love and praise.

**(VERSE 5)**

Sure as Thy truth shall last,  
To Zion shall be given  
The brightest glories earth can yield  
And brighter bliss of Heaven.

**SHARING AROUND CHRIST'S TABLE—COMMUNION**

**Rev. Don Meekhof**

*Christ becomes a part of our flesh through Holy Communion.*

*The Lord's Supper is not an end in itself. It always points beyond itself to celebrate God's grace and covenant faithfulness. This does not mean the physical aspects of the celebration are incidental or unimportant. The Lord's Supper should be a celebration fitting to the abundant grace of God offered in Christ.*

**Invitation to the Lord's Supper  
Breaking of the Bread & Pouring of the Cup  
Sharing the Body and Blood of Christ**

**\*CLOSING SONG**

*It is the custom at Knox, in celebration of Holy Communion, to hold hands and form a circle around the sanctuary to sing our closing song...*

**"BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS"**

*(Hymn #708)*

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

**BENEDICTION**

**Rev. Don Meekhof**

**POSTLUDE**

**Organ**

**"Let Me Be Thine Forever"**

*Johann Christoph Bach*

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**In the pulpit today: Don Meekhof** is our “*Temporary Stated Supply*” pastor. Those words in quotes are the official title given by Presbytery because with Shared Ministry there is no full-time pastor. However, Don most definitely has a full-time love for shepherding the flock of Christ and we are blessed to have him with us!

**Today’s Lectionary Readings**

**Isaiah 1:10-18**

**2 Thessalonians 1:1-4,11-12**

**Psalms 32:1-7**

**Luke 19:1-10**

*Questions for Reflection*

We sometimes imagine that we must earn God’s love. In the story of Zacchaeus, however, Jesus offered companionship to him even before Zacchaeus made restoration to those he had cheated. Were the good works of Zacchaeus the requirement or the response for receiving the love of Jesus? What makes “grace” grace?

***Household Prayer: Morning***

Thank you, God, for this new day.  
May I grow in faith  
and increase in love,  
that I may be worthy of the call you have placed on my life.  
Let my words and my deeds glorify the name of Jesus Christ,  
that others may know of your grace  
and abide in your love.  
Amen.

***Household Prayer: Evening***

God, Thank you for the gift of this day.  
I humbly ask you to forgive my shortcomings today,  
having faith that you will forgive me,  
Like Zacchaeus before me,  
I thank Christ for coming home with me tonight and assuring  
me that, no matter what, I am a child of God and a member

of your ecumenical community of faith. I now take my rest,  
confident in your promise that steadfast love surrounds  
those who trust in you. Amen.

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