

September 11, 2011 SERVICE OF WORSHIP

11:00 am

13th Sunday After Pentecost

Liturgical Color: Green

Preparation for Worship and Announcements

Dr. Mary Lynn Polk, Lay Leader

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, till all the world adore his sacred name.

***Passing of the Peace**

Chiming of the Trinity

MaryAshlynn Perkey

Prelude

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

arr. David Cherwien

***Call to Worship**

Shell Dula

Leader: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of God. Let us remember God's marvelous works.

People: **Surely God has saved us in difficult times. How can we forget God's guiding hand?**

Leader: When evil surrounds us and we have been wronged, God helps us turn the evil to good.

People: **We need not be afraid whatever happens. We are in God's care wherever we go.**

Leader: Sing the praises of God, our strength. Know that God is majestic and holy.

People: **How great is God's mercy for all who worship! We sense among us God's kindness and patience.**

***Hymn No. 66**

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Lauda Anima

***Invocation**

The Reverend Terry C. Martin

Majestic God, who led our spiritual ancestors with a pillar of cloud that hid them by day and protected them by night, lead us through the threatening times in which we live. Save us from the floods of our own misplaced trust, as you saved them from the waters of the sea and the weapons of their pursuers. On this day, grant strength to those who are weak and support for all who are stumbling. Let every tongue praise you as we give account to you of our deeds. Amen.

***Affirmation of Faith No. 881**

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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at 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 Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Gloria Patri No. 70**

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.

Bible Presentation

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 14:19-31

Page 76 (OT) in pew Bibles

New Testament Reading

Romans 14:1-12

Page 198 (NT) in pew Bibles

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Litany For the World (Please see insert)

Anthem

Prayer for Our Time
Chancel Choir

Joseph Martin

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer (In 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering

Offertory

Prayer of St. Francis
Chancel Choir with Martha Moore, soloist

Allen Pote

*Doxology

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Old 100th

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Children's Message

The children of Main Street UMC are collecting money to fund a llama for \$150 from Heifer International. As the children come to the front of the Sanctuary for a special message, they are invited to bring change to help in buying the llama. If any adults want to contribute, please pass your money to a child as they come forward. Following Children's Time, 3-year-olds through Kindergarteners may leave the Sanctuary for Extended Session.

Alice Balentine

*Hymn No. 548

In Christ There Is No East or West

McKee

*†Gospel Lesson

Matthew 18:21-35
Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

Page 24 (NT) in pew Bibles

Sermon

"A Time to Heal"

The Reverend Terry C. Martin

*Hymn No. 402

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian in My Heart

I Want to Be a Christian

*Benediction

Leader: May the love of the Father enfold us;
People: **May the wisdom of the Son enlighten us;**
Leader: May the fire of the Spirit kindle us;
People: **And may the blessing of the Lord God come down upon us and remain with us always.**
Amen.

*Benediction Response No. 666

Shalom to You
Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

SHALOM

*Postlude

†Sermon Text

**Please stand if you are able*

Nursery Provided

Bible Presentation

Pastor: In Psalm 119 the Psalmist wrote these words: "How can young people keep their paths pure? By guarding them according to what you've said. I have sought you with all my heart. Don't let me stray from any of your commandments! I keep your word close, in my heart, so that I won't sin against you." Today we celebrate a special event: the presentation of Bibles to you, our third-graders. The Bible is a very special book because it contains the story of God and of the persons who loved and followed God. We, as the church, believe this story is an important one for you to hear and experience. As you explore, learn, and discover your Bible, we hope that you will not only be reading of happenings long ago in a faraway land, but will also begin to see yourselves as God's people in today's world.

Children: We are eager to begin our adventure with our Bibles, but we need your help. We will have many questions.

Pastor: Parents will you assist these children in your homes; guiding them as they study, sharing your understanding of the story of faith, and giving them the opportunity to benefit together in Christian education programs?

Parents: Yes. We take seriously our responsibility for helping our children as they encounter the Bible. With God's guidance, we will lead them, share with them, and provide them with learning experiences and fellowship.

Congregation: As a congregation, we too have the privilege and responsibility to share our faith stories and support these persons as they learn and grow. We pray for God's guidance and grace in this endeavor.

All: Loving God, we give thanks for the Bible, your gift to be used for our learning. Help us to hear those words, understand them, and be changed by them so that in your time we may become wiser, more loving, and more active Christians. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

Litany for the World

Confident in the knowledge that God comforts and lifts up those who call on the name of the Lord, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

For the gift of life, O Lord, we give you thanks.

Infuse us with your light, and make us vehicles of that life-giving light. *A brief silence*

O God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who live with fear, anxiety, and uncertainty, comfort and strengthen them, we pray, that they may know the healing power of your love. *A brief silence.*

O God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the leaders of nations and all who are in positions of political authority, that they may hear your voice above all others and act in such a way that brings about healing and reconciliation. *A brief silence.*

O God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who mourn and wonder, "O God, where were you?"

May they know your presence and see how you use something that was meant for evil to bring about something that can be used for good. *A brief silence.*

O God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For our enemies, the ones for whom we would rather not pray, and for ourselves: lead us from prejudice to truth; deliver us from hatred and revenge; give us courage to overcome our fears and build bridges, that we may stand before you reconciled through Christ our Lord. *A brief silence.*

O God of mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen.**

Music Notes

A Prayer for Our Time was written in response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001. The primary melody heard in this anthem is the tune *Melita*, the tune most often associated with the hymn, *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*. Joseph Martin is a graduate of Furman University.

Prayer for Our Time

Joseph Martin

*Our God, to thee we pray. Heal our nation, Lord, today.
God of mercy, grant us courage. Give us peace, give us peace, give us peace.*

*When evil draws its angry sword and seeks to sever freedom's cord,
When death and darkness shake our faith in God's unfailing power to save,
Eternal Father, ever be our courage in the time of need.*

*When war is waged by faceless foes who battle peace with fiery blows,
When storms of hate and fear assail, our Father's mighty arm prevails,
Eternal Father, ever be our courage in the time of need.*

*There is no tyrant who can stand against our sure Defender's hand.
No threat or danger can defeat the strong and righteous Prince of Peace.
Eternal Father, ever be our courage in the time of need. Amen.*

Prayer of St. Francis

Allen Pote

*Lord make me an instrument of Thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is injury, thy pardon, Lord.
Where there is doubt, let there be faith.*

*Oh, Lord make me an instrument of thy peace.
Where there's despair let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, let there be light,
Where there is sadness, let there be joy.*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not so
much seek to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.*

*Oh, Lord make me an instrument of Thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
and it is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
And it is in dying that we are born
to eternal life.*

*Lord make me an instrument of Thy peace.
An instrument of thy peace. Amen.*