

Uniting in Worship

November Presbytery Meeting 2023

11:15AM

We recognize that there are many reasons you might remain seated. Those who wish may stand when indicated with an asterisk ()*

Prelude

Dr. Solee Lee-Clark

Opening Prayer

Patty Nieman

***Call to Worship**

Leader: We enter this space with hopeful expectation.

People: We gather to praise God, to offer our prayers, to listen for God's voice, and to strengthen our faiths.

Leader: God calls us to gather in worship, bringing all of our differences, so we might unite in common cause—

People: To be advocates for God's justice, peace, mercy, and love in the world.

Leader: We praise you, O God, whose presence is as vast as the mighty oceans and whose Spirit never leaves us.

People: Let us worship God!

***Hymn #473**

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

(vs. 1-4)

(Verse 1)

For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

(Verse 2)

For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flower
Sun and Moon and stars of light
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

(Verse 3)

For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

(Verse 4)

For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

*Prayer of Confession

God of Mercy, we ask forgiveness for often talking too much and doing too little. We ask forgiveness for those times when we've caused conflict, divisiveness, and needless pain to others. We confess we get angry at people at home, at church, at our jobs. Forgive us for blaming others while firmly believing that our way is the right way.

Grant us awareness of all those different than we are, those whose customs and habits make us defensive and uncomfortable. Open our minds and hearts to be the loving children you have created and called us to be. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

*Assurance of God's Grace

One: Hear the good news today. In God we find mercy. In God we find grace. In God we find love. We are a forgiven people; thanks be to God.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

*Response "Gloria Patri"

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.

Scripture Readings Amos 5:18-24 & Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon "Now Is the Time to Risk" *Rev. Ann Schwartz*

Offertory

Today's offering will benefit our presbytery's seminarians. You can give online at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZJSW/home>, or send checks to the presbytery office at 601 N Sheridan Road, Peoria, Illinois 61604.

Prayer of Dedication

Sacrament of Communion *Rev. Brandon Ouellette*

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you!

All: And also with you!

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Communion

Prayer After Communion

***Hymn #374**

“Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace”

(Verse 1)

Lord, make us servants of your peace:
Where there is hate, may we sow love;
Where there is hurt, may we forgive;
Where there is strife, may we make one.

(Verse 2)

Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;
Where all is gloom, may we sow hope;
Where all is night, may we sow light;
Where all is tears, may we sow joy.

(Verse 3)

Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek
To be consoled, but to console,
Nor look to understanding hearts,
But look for hearts to understand.

(Verse 4)

May we not look for love's return,
But seek to love unselfishly,
For in our giving we receive,
And in forgiving are forgiven.

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude