

**Welcome and Announcements:** October 4, 2020

Peacemaking and Global Witness Offering is being received now. Donations may be made through the website ([www.ashlandpresbyterian.org](http://www.ashlandpresbyterian.org)) or by sending a check to the church office.

**Prelude:** \* *Choral Song* – James Southbridge

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**GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD**

**Call to Worship** (*Psalm 118: 22-25*) **and Opening Prayer:**

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected

has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> This is the LORD’s doing;

it is marvelous in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the LORD has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

<sup>25</sup> Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!

O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

O God, Creator of the Universe, when the morning stars sang together and the heavens shouted for joy, you laid the foundation of the earth, the cornerstone of your eternal love. Establish in this time and in this place a church where your people will be fed by your word, washed in your grace, and nourished at your table, that they might live as faithful disciples and witness to your great love made known in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Opening Hymn:** *Jesus Shall Reign Where-e'er the Sun*

1. Jesus shall reign where-e'er the sun  
Does its successive journeys run,  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2. Let every creature rise and bring  
Honors peculiar to our King;  
Angels descend with songs again,  
And earth repeat the loud Amen!

*Jesus Shall Reign Where-e'er the Sun*, as in The Presbyterian Hymnal, © 1990 Westminster John Knox Press. Words: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt. Music: John Hatton (d. 1793). Used by permission. CCLI #[20516410](#) Size A, Streaming #[20516427](#) Size A.

## **GOD'S WORD**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

#### **Scripture: Matthew 21:33-46 Parable of the Wicked Tenants**

<sup>33</sup> “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. <sup>34</sup> When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup> But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup> Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup> Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup> But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup> So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup> Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” <sup>41</sup> They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord’s doing,  
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

<sup>43</sup> Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. <sup>44</sup> The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

<sup>45</sup> When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup> They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

**Sermon:** Cornerstone

The Rev. Kerra Becker English

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

### **Invitation to the Table**

Blessed are you who hunger for justice, for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who thirst for righteousness, for you will drink deeply of the cup of joy.

Blessed are you who yearn for reconciliation, for you will find peace.

Blessed are you who are persecuted in the name of religion, for yours is the commonwealth of heaven.

Blessed are we – for Christ calls us to his table, where there is room for everyone, and plenty for all.

O taste and see that the Lord is good.

### **Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and 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.

### **Words of Institution**

**Communion Meditation:** \**Ave Verum* – W.A. Mozart, arr. David Paxton

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**Prayer after Communion** – As those who have been claimed and set free by Christ's grace, we respond with gratitude, offering our lives, our spiritual gifts, and our material goods.

**Response:** Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures, here below;*

*Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*, Words: Thomas Ken, 1995, 1709. Tune: Genevan Psalter, 1551. Words and music - Public Domain. CCLI #[20516410](#) Size A, Streaming #[20516427](#) Size A.

## **SENDING US OUT TO BE GOD'S WORD IN THE WORLD**

Closing Hymn: *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* (Tune: Regent Square)

1. Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the head and cornerstone,  
Chosen of the Lord and precious,  
Binding all the church in one;  
Holy Zion's help forever,  
And our confidence alone.

2. Here bestow on all your servants  
What they ask of You to gain,  
What they gain from You forever  
With the blessed to retain,  
And hereafter in Your glory  
Evermore with You to reign.

3. Laud and honor to the Father,  
Laud and honor to the Son,  
Laud and honor to the Spirit,  
Ever three and ever one;  
One in might and one in glory  
While unending ages run.

*Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*, as in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, © 1990 Westminster John Knox Press. Words: 7<sup>th</sup> century, Latin, Trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1861, 1972. Music: Henry Thomas Smart, 1867. Used by permission. CCLI #[20516410](#) Size A, Streaming #[20516427](#) Size A.

### **Charge and Benediction**

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's son, Jesus Christ our Lord;

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Postlude:** \**Recessional* – Chester Nordman

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