

Welcome and Announcements: September 20, 2020

Prelude: **Calm in the Soul* – Rob Roy Peery

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Gathering Around God's Word

Opening Prayer – Roger Cole

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God.

We come before God, not as despised sinners, but as beloved children.

With the confidence of the children of God, let us confess our sin and learn to love more deeply.

O Lord, our God, you call us to work for a world where all will be fed and have dignity,

But we find ourselves distracted by our own desires.

You call us to seek justice and peace, but we are satisfied with injustice and discord.

You call us to bring liberty to the oppressed, but we do not insist on freedom for all.

Forgive us, O Lord.

Turn us to your will by the power of your Spirit, so that all may know your justice and peace;

Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

May the peace of Christ be with all who are worshipping with us today.

Opening Hymn: *O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer*

1. O my soul, bless your Redeemer,
All within me bless God's name;
Bless the Savior, and forget not
All God's mercies to proclaim;

2. God forgives all your transgressions,
All diseases gently heals;
God redeems you from destruction,
And with you so kindly deals.

3. Far as east from west in distant,
God has put away our sin;
Like the pity of a father
Has the Lord's compassion been.

4. Bless your maker, all you creatures,
Ever under God's control,
All throughout God's vast dominion;
Bless the Lord of all, my soul!

Oh My Soul, Your Redeemer as in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, © 1990 Westminster John Knox Press. Words: Para. in *The Book of Psalms*, 1871; alt. 1972, 1988. Music: *Witts Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715, as in *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861. Used by permission. CCLI #20516410 Size A, Streaming #20516427 Size A

God's Word

Prayer for Illumination – Pastor Kerra

Old Testament Reading – Psalm 105:1-6 – Terry Alexander

- ¹ O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
² Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.
³ Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
⁴ Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually.
⁵ Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,
⁶ O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

New Testament Reading – Matthew 20:1-16 – Vicki Neeley

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to

them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?’¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Sermon –

Contemplation on the Laborers in the Vineyard - Pastor Kerra and Seminary intern: Sam Zeigler

Responding to God’s Word

Ordination and Installation of Officers – Terry Alexander, Roger Cole, Vicki Neeley

We are called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism, and marked as Christ’s own by the Holy Spirit. This is our common calling, to be disciples of Jesus Christ and servants of our servant Lord. Within the community of the church, some are called to particular service as deacons, as ruling elders, and as ministers of Word and Sacrament.

Ordination is Christ’s gift to the church, assuring that his ministry continues among us. Through ordination, God provides for acts of care and compassion in the world, for the ordering and governance of the church, and for the preaching of the word and celebration of the sacraments.

Terry, Roger, and Vicki – you were claimed by the love of God, clothed in the grace of Jesus Christ, and anointed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to share Christ’s mission in the world. Now you are called by God through the voice of the church for new service and ministry in Jesus’ name. In accordance with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), demonstrate your commitment to this calling by responding to the following questions in the affirmative:

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? **I do.**

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God’s Word to you? **I do.**

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God? **I do and I will.**

Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? **I will.**

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit? **I will.**

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world? **I will.**

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church? **I do.**

Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? **I will.**

Will you be a faithful elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in governing bodies of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will, with God's help.**

Having answered in the affirmative, the congregation makes these promises to you:

We, the members of Ashland Presbyterian Church, accept Terry, Roger, and Vicki as elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ.

We agree to encourage you, to respect your decisions, and to follow as you guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church.

Prayer of Ordination and Installation 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.

Welcome/Dedication of Gifts –

Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth.

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: *Jesus, our Divine Companion*

1. Jesus, Our Divine Companion, by Your lonely human birth
You have come to join the workers, burden bearers of the earth.
You, the carpenter of Nazareth, toiling for your daily food,
By Your patience and Your courage, You have taught us work is good.

2. Where the many toil together, there You are among Your own;
Where the solitary labor, You are there with them alone.
You, the peace that passes knowledge, dwelling in the daily strife
You, the Bread of heaven, are broken, in the sacrament of life.

Jesus, our Divine Companion, as in the Presbyterian Hymnal, © 1990 Westminster John Knox Press. Words: Henry van Dyke, 1909, alt. Tune: American melody, 1830, harm. Richard Proulx, 1986. Used by permission. CCLI #[20516410](#) Size A, Streaming #[20516427](#) Size A.

Charge

Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak, and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Postlude: **Praise, O Praise the Lord* – Edward H. Wetherill

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