

****Prayer of Confession**

God of love, we confess that have wanted to be 'great, to be better than others, superior and safer. Give us trust in your grace to be 'least', to be humble, trusting and loving. Give us faith, not to control, but to receive. Forgive our sin and renew our hearts. We ask in your gracious and wonderful name. Amen.

****Assurance of Forgiveness**

****Hymn**

"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."*

****The Passing of the Peace of Christ**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us share this peace with one another.

THE WORD

Time with Our Youngest Saints

Unison Prayer for Understanding

Your Living Word is our wisdom; it gives us insight, strength, and courage. Open our hearts and our minds on this day, that we might receive what you want to give. Speak, Lord! Your people listen! Amen.

The Reading from the New Testament

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

"³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will

*also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.
4:1Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.*

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Reading from the Gospels

Mark 9:30-37

³⁰They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. ³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

Liturgist: The gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A Gift of Music

Sermon

"The Metrics of Success"

****Hymn 399**

"Be Thou My Vision"

****Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles Creed

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 Ghost, born of the

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

THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

"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.

Invitation to the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

****Hymn** *"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

*"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.*

****Prayer of Dedication**

THE SENDING

****Hymn 341** *"Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!"*

****Charge and Blessing**

****Postlude**

***please stand as you are able*



First Presbyterian Church of Lancaster

*Order of Worship for Sunday,
September 22, 2024*

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Liturgist: Mr. LeRoy Horn

Interim Organist—Mr. Jim Parrish

Ushers—Mrs. Joyce Bryant and Mr. Jim Bryant

Pastor—The Reverend Michael Denney

Please silence electronic devices prior to worship.

THE GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

****Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Creator God, we praise you.

People: **Risen Christ, we greet you!**

Liturgist: Holy Spirit, we are one body by your grace.

People: **Blessed are those whose delight is in the Word of God. They are like trees planted by streams of water, who bear fruit in season and whose leaves do not wither.**

Liturgist: Grant us the gift of gentleness born of wisdom.

People: **God, we draw near to you. We root ourselves in you. We submit ourselves to you. We worship you.**

****Prayer of the Day**

****Hymn 260**

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

****Call to Confession**