

evil; with our eyes we look out for ourselves. Forgive us, gracious God, and lead us in your holy way of life and love and peace; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Lord God, by the power of your Spirit, enlighten our eyes, instruct our minds, rejoice our hearts, and revive our souls so that our lips and our lives may bear witness to your Word. Amen.

The Reading from the Epistles

James 5:13-20

¹³Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not

rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. ¹⁹My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner’s soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Reading from the Gospels

Mark 9:38-50

“³⁸John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” ³⁹But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. ⁴²“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. ⁴⁹“For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

Liturgist: The gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A Gift of Music

Sermon

“Getting to the Root of the Problem”

****Hymn 356**

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

****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 387** *"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"*

****Charge and Blessing**

****Postlude**

***please stand as you are able*



First Presbyterian Church of Lancaster

*Order of Worship for Sunday,
September 29, 2024*

The Nineteenth 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: Upon this gathering of your people,

People: **pour out your Spirit, O Lord.**

Liturgist: Be near to us and speak to us,

People: **and we will proclaim your glory.**

****Prayer of the Day**

****Hymn 464**

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

****Call to Confession**

****Prayer of Confession**

**God, our strength and savior, you know our great transgressions, our hidden faults,
our secret sins. With our hands we grasp at power; with our feet we stumble into**