

# 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

September 15, 2024

9:00 a.m.

*Welcome friends in Christ! We are glad you have come to worship today and to celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ. We extend a warm greeting of Christian Fellowship to you.*

\*Congregation standing for those who are able

The Words of Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Friendship pads and pass them back to the center aisle.

## Our Approach to God

Prelude

*Elegy*

C. Hubert Parry

The Call to Worship

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

**We worship the Lord with gladness; we come before him with joyful songs.**

Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his.

**We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.

**We give thanks to him and praise his name.**

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever.

**His faithfulness continues through all generations.**

\*The Hymn of Praise

*God is Here!*

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\*The Call to Confession

The psalmist declared, "I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy." We gather as a community in need of a Savior. We offer our honest confession, in faith and trust in our loving God, knowing that God hears our prayers.

\*The Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, you have loved us with a love beyond our understanding. Yet all too often, we go about our lives, forgetting all that you have done for us. We have strayed from your ways; we have sinned against you through what we have done and what we have left undone. Forgive us our sins.** [Silent confession.]

**Lord, as we remember the lavish gift of your grace symbolized in baptism, we praise you and give you thanks that you forgive us yet again. Grant us now, we pray, the grace to die daily to sin, and to rise daily to new life in Christ, who lives and reigns with you, and in whose name we pray. Amen.**

\*The Assurance of Pardon

This is the good news – God has delivered us! There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Our sins are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

\*The Gloria Patri

*Glory Be to the Father*

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**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 Word of God

The Time with the Children

The Psalm

Psalm 116

page 674 OT

The Sermon

*Worshiping God in the Psalms:  
Our Response to Serve*

Pastor Ruth Estell

## Our Response to Serve

\*The Hymn

*Wonder of Wonders, Here Revealed*

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The Sacrament of Baptism

Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism is Elia Rose Millar  
Daughter of Ian and Kristi Millar

\*The Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

hymnal, page 14

The Mission Moment

Lauren Rogers  
PC(USA) Presbyterian Mission



# Announcements and Upcoming Events

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## Mission Moment

Today we welcome Lauren Rogers to our congregation. She serves the Synods of Living Waters, Covenant, and Lincoln Trails as a PC(USA) Ministry Engagement Advisor. She writes, "What a joy it is to be able to witness and celebrate the many ways our congregations and mid councils are living into God's call for us to be a church of action. It makes my job all the more rewarding, and it makes me proud to be Presbyterian!" Lauren will be sharing during the service and will be available after the service for conversation and questions.



Office hours for the week of September 16 will be **Monday through Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** As unforeseen circumstances may occur, please call 989-792-1023 to be sure that someone is in the office before you drive to the church.

**Pastor Ruth will be on vacation beginning September 18**

**through October 1. Substitute Pulpit Supply Schedule is as follows:**

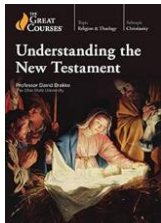
- September 22 – Rev. Janice Chambers
- September 29 – Rev. Mike Hahn

## For The Hearing Impaired

The service audio is being broadcast on 96.7-FM throughout the building and parking lot. Feel free to bring your pocket size radio, with headphones or earbuds, and listen to the service at an audio level that is more comfortable for you.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> @ Second

**NEXT** Sunday, September 22 at 10:15 in the library, we will continue our study with Lesson 7-*Worship & Leaders in Paul's Congregations* of The Great Courses series "Understanding the New Testament." Grab a snack, coffee, or other beverage, and join us in the church library after worship.



For September, the mission focus will be "It's All About the Cross," the ministry serving the Saginaw County Jail. Chaplain Andy Cox, (Formerly of Forgotten Man Ministries) is continuing to collect books and Bibles to provide to inmates at the Saginaw County Jail. Our

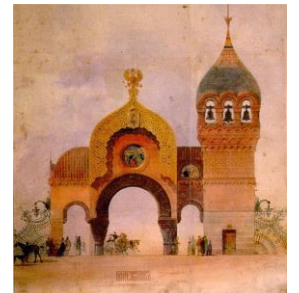
mission focus collection will be books for this ministry. Books must be soft cover with a positive theme, such as inspirational/self-help books, or literature encouraging inmates to grow in their faith. They may also accept puzzle books or magazines, such as crosswords or word-searches. They are unable to accept hard cover books, books with stapled bindings, or books with themes of romance, crime/thriller, or violent themes including those about war. In addition to any books collected, we will also be donating Bibles to the ministry to help in their outreach to those in jail. For more information on the ministry work of "It's All About the Cross," visit <http://www.crosssaginaw.org>.

## Suggestions to the Nominating Committee

The Nominating committee invites you to participate in the nominating process by carefully considering the qualifications for office of Elder, and then suggesting names of persons who could serve. Please use the included form for this purpose. You can even nominate yourself! Place in an envelope addressed to the nominating committee and mail it to the church, turn it into the office, or place in the offering plate. Your Nominating committee thanks you for your suggestions. **Please have your nominations turned in by October 31.**

## Concert Season Is Back

Concerts at First Presbyterian Saginaw is returning this fall with two exciting events planned. Both events are at First Presbyterian Church (121 S. Harrison St., Saginaw, MI, 48602). The first is an organ recital presented by Thomas Heidenreich on **Sunday, October 13, at 4:00pm**. The recital is centered around a transcription of Modest Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*—a piece that will be sure to use the full resources of the Casavant organ!



# Psalm 116 New International Version

<sup>1</sup> I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;  
he heard my cry for mercy.

<sup>2</sup> Because he turned his ear to me,  
I will call on him as long as I live.

<sup>3</sup> The cords of death entangled me,  
the anguish of the grave came over me;  
I was overcome by distress and sorrow.

<sup>4</sup> Then I called on the name of the LORD:  
“LORD, save me!”

<sup>5</sup> The LORD is gracious and righteous;  
our God is full of compassion.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD protects the unwary;  
when I was brought low, he saved me.

<sup>7</sup> Return to your rest, my soul,  
for the LORD has been good to you.

<sup>8</sup> For you, LORD, have delivered me from death,  
my eyes from tears,  
my feet from stumbling,

<sup>9</sup> that I may walk before the LORD  
in the land of the living.

<sup>10</sup> I trusted in the LORD when I said,  
“I am greatly afflicted”;

<sup>11</sup> in my alarm I said,  
“Everyone is a liar.”

<sup>12</sup> What shall I return to the LORD  
for all his goodness to me?

<sup>13</sup> I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the LORD.

<sup>14</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people.

<sup>15</sup> Precious in the sight of the LORD  
is the death of his faithful servants.

<sup>16</sup> Truly I am your servant, LORD;  
I serve you just as my mother did;  
you have freed me from my chains.

<sup>17</sup> I will sacrifice a thank offering to you  
and call on the name of the LORD.

<sup>18</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people,

<sup>19</sup> in the courts of the house of the LORD—  
in your midst, Jerusalem.

Praise the LORD.