

# BEULAH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 17, 2023

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

“Sheep May Safely Graze”

J.S. Bach

### GREETING, WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

This is the day the Lord has made. **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP *(From Psalm 111)*

Praise the Lord!

**I will praise the Lord with all my heart**

In the company of the upright

**In the presence of the congregation**

The Lord nourishes the faithful

**Upholds the covenant**

**God's love endures forever.**

\*Hymn

“God of Our Life”

#686

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Listen people, the Lord stands ready to forgive, to set the crooked straight and make the rough places plain. Humble yourselves before God, set aside that which separates and divides and open your heart, spirit and soul to the forgiveness of sin. Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, who has shown us that love has no bounds, that forgiveness can be generous and plenteous, hear our prayer. We are too often a wayward people. We have allowed ourselves to be divided politically. We have put greed ahead of morality. We have turned our backs on the less fortunate. In too many ways we have hardened our hearts. That is the bad news.**

**The good news is that even though we have turned away from you, O Lord, you have remained steadfast and true in your love for us. You have forgiven us and deemed us righteous and just before you. Your grace abounds. For this and so much more we give you thanks. Amen.**

(Silence is observed.)

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The good news is that God is a loving God who does not forsake or abandon us. Believe the good news. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Amen.**

## **\*THE PEACE**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

## **ANTHEM**

“I am a Poor Wayfaring Stranger”  
(*Chancel Choir*)

Southern American Folk Hymn

## **ENCOUNTERING GOD’S WORD**

### **A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

*(Children are invited to participate in activities at the Playground area  
in front of the pulpit for the remainder of the service.)*

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. **Amen.**

### **SCRIPTURE**

1<sup>st</sup> Lesson John 18:10

2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson Matthew 7:15

3<sup>rd</sup> Lesson Luke 23:34

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **SERMON**

“Is This Not Us?”

Rev. James Watson

## **RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

### **\*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.**

### **\*Hymn**

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

#440

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.

**OFFERING**

**Call for the Offering**

Freely you have received, freely give. Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth.

**Offertory**

**\*Celebrating God's Generosity**

Hymn #606

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

**GOING IN GOD'S NAME**

**\*Hymn**

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

#837

**\*CHARGE and BLESSING**

**\*POSTLUDE**

“BWV 553”

J.S. Bach

CCLI#20544224 & 20544

*Go in Peace*

*A special word of thanks to all those who helped make this worship service possible.*

*It is good to be together!*

*Remember in Prayer*

*Verna Williams, Suzi Criscoe, Bill Anderson, Beth Biller, Ron Vaughn,  
Rev. Don Seeger and Susan Krause.*

*All those who are Care Givers, all those affected by tragic world events,  
Jake Mohn, William Bland, Dylan Brooks, Jeffrey Schmidt,  
and all Service Personnel and their families.*

## **Welcome! We warmly greet all who have come to worship God.**

**We are so glad that you are here.** We hope that joining us for worship today will nurture your heart and transform your mind. Here at Beulah our mission is transforming lives through the love of Jesus Christ – that simple and that challenging. We realize we need each other and commit to pray for each other. We reach out in love and compassion to a world in need, and we know we are a work in progress. If you are new to Beulah, we hope you will join us again and consider attending any of our mission, fellowship, and education opportunities. God's peace to you today.

**Membership** ~ If you have any questions about membership, please call the church office at 502-239-3231 or email [carol@beulahpres.org](mailto:carol@beulahpres.org).

**Learn more** by visiting us on our website at [www.beulahpres.org](http://www.beulahpres.org), and on our Facebook page at Beulah Presbyterian Church.

**Assisting in worship** ~ Rev. James A. Watson; Music Director/Accompanist Kim Karchenes; Liturgist Steve Sexton; The Chancel Choir; and Sound Crew, Brent Dellacoletta and Jim Harris.

**Virtual Ministry** ~ Please follow us on our Website [www.beulahpres.org](http://www.beulahpres.org), Facebook, Instagram@beulah\_pres, and YouTube to stay up to date on upcoming events, view previous worship services, live stream services, and see what's happening in the life and ministry of Beulah!

**Listening Devices** ~ The Sanctuary is equipped with Listening Devices for persons with hearing difficulty. Please ask an usher for assistance.

**Electronic Devices** ~ In the hustle and bustle of getting ourselves ready for church it is easy to forget to turn off our cell phones. We offer this gentle reminder to please power off cell phones and other electronic devices so that the worship service is not disrupted by them.

**Large Print Worship Bulletin** ~ If you or someone you know needs a large print bulletin of today's service, please ask one of the ushers and they will assist you.



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**155 Years of Faith & Service**