

18th Sunday After Pentecost

October 12, 2025

GATHERING: *God invites us to enter His presence*

PRELUDE *Break Forth, Ye Heavens – Broughton*
Give Us Hearts to Pray - Shea

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP *(Time for Silent Preparation)*



CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsively)*

Hob Pusey

Our hearts are ready, O Lord,
our hearts are ready!
We will sing and make melody!
We will awaken the dawn!
We will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples,
we will sing praises to you among the nations.
For your steadfast love is great above the heavens,
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.
—based on Psalm 108:1-4



INVOCATION *(Responsively)*

Hob Pusey

Praise the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.
Great God,
you have been generous
and marvelously kind.
Give us such wonder, love, and gratitude
that we may sing praises to you
and joyfully honor your name
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



OPENING HYMN 26 *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

CONFESSING: *God invites us to be honest with Him*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Hob Pusey

In spite of God's love for us and gift of love to us, we often act in destructive and hateful ways.
We close our hearts to God and disobey God's law. Together let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Responsively)*

Hob Pusey

For the times we have lied to one another
and the times we have been lied to,
heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.
For the times we have laughed at another's pain
and the times we have been laughed at,
heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.

For the times we have spoken when we should have remained silent
and the times we have remained silent when we should have spoken,
heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.
For the times we have not respected another's freedom
to be different from us,
heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.
For the times we have betrayed a friend
and the times we have been betrayed,
heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.
O God of heaven and earth,
you emptied yourself of your power
and became a helpless baby
in order that you might heal the sick world.
Teach us to empty ourselves of the things
that destroy us and keep us alone.
Empty us of our jealousy, of our meanness,
of our fear of others. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hob Pusey

Come now, let us argue it out,
says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be like snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.

—Isaiah 1:18, NRSV

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God



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.
A-men, A-men*

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICER (See Insert)

Introductions

Susan Obenschain - *Deacon*

(Please come forward when your name is read)

Installation Questions to Susan Obenschain on being installed as a Deacon.

*Do you now reaffirm the vows you took upon your Ordination and
do you recommit yourself to them in discharge of your obligation?
Do you?*

*Have you been induced, as far as you know your own heart, to
Accept this office from love of God and sincere desire to promote*

His glory in the Gospel of His Son? Have you?

Do you promise to be zealous and faithful in promoting the truths of the Gospel and the purity and peace of the church, whatever persecution or opposition may arise to you on that account? Do you?

Will you seek to be faithful and diligent in the exercise of all your Duties as an officer, whether personal or relative, private or public; and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your manner of life, and to walk with exemplary piety before this congregation of which God will make you an officer? Will you?

Are you now willing to take responsibility in the life of this Congregation respectively as a Deacon and will you seek to discharge your duties, relying upon the grace of God, in such a way that the entire Church of Jesus Christ will be blessed? Will you?

Question to the Congregation

Do you, the members of this congregation, receive this person as a Deacon, and do you continue your promise to yield her and all your officers all that honor, encouragement, and obedience in the Lord to which the ordination or installation as an officer entitles them, according to the word of God and the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church? Do you?

Prayer of Ordination

"Sovereign Lord, we ask You now that You anoint Your Servant for the work that You are calling her to do. Give her the full measure of your Spirit so that she may become fully equipped. Give her the wisdom to lean on You and Your Word for advice. Give her the courage to face the trials that will come her way. May Your presence abide, Your grace sustain and Your love keep her now and forever. Amen

Declaration

OFFERING: *Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him*

INVITATION The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Responding to God's bountiful gifts to us in Christ, we have opportunity to share out of our abundance.

—based on 2 Corinthians 9:6, 8, NRSV

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*O Wondrous Love
Kelly Fox*

Cook

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. A-men.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Almighty and most merciful God, from you comes every good and perfect gift. We give you praise and thanks for all your mercies. Your goodness has created us, your bounty has sustained us, your discipline has chastened us, your patience has borne with us, your love has redeemed us. Give us a heart to love and serve you, and enable us to show our thankfulness for all your goodness and mercy by giving up ourselves to your service and cheerfully submitting in all things to your blessed will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with You
All: And also with you*

PREPARATION SONG *He Will Hold Me Fast (See Screen)*

PROCLAIMING: *God speaks to us through His Work*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of Jesus Christ, give us a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Christ, so that the eyes of our hearts might be enlightened. Help us to know the hope to which you have called us, the riches of the glorious inheritance in the saints, and the immeasurable greatness of your power at work in us. Through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

—based on Ephesians 1:17-19, NRSV

SCRIPTURE READING *Luke 18:9-14*

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

SERMON *“Our Supreme Defender” Rev. Paul Toms*

HYMN OF RESPONSE 59 *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

RESPONDING: *We respond to God’s Word*

PROFESSION OF FAITH *(In Unison)*

**I believe that the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who out of nothing created heaven and earth
and everything in them,
who still upholds and rules them**

by his eternal counsel and providence,
is my God and Father
because of Christ the Son.
I trust God so much that I do not doubt
he will provide whatever I need
for body and soul,
and will turn to my good
whatever adversity he sends upon me
in this sad world.
God is able to do this because he is almighty God
and desires to do this because he is a faithful Father.

—from Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 26

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord Jesus, you are our living head.
Teach us to be your body here on earth—
your hands, your feet, your eyes, and your compassionate heart.
Lord, send the impulses of your love into the sinews of this church.
May your will and thoughts direct us.
Let your hands, through our hands, supply food for our neighbors' hunger.
Let them hear your voice as we visit and talk with them.
Let children come to us and sit in our laps, as they sat in yours.
Without you as our head, Lord, we are lifeless.
We wait for your power, your Word, your instruction.
Fill us with your life and love, Jesus. **Amen.**

COMMISSIONING: *God sends us out into the world as His witnesses*



COMMISSION HYMN 285 *In Christ There is No East or West*

BENEDICTION & BLESSING

POSTLUDE