

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 15, 2021

Eleven O'clock

WELCOME INTO GOD'S HOUSE (responsive)

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit are in our midst.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

Leader: We are the Body of Christ, and Christ beckons us come to his open arms, and we will receive Fellowship, Joy, Blessedness and Peace.

Congregation: **Alleluia!**

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE "Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above" arr. Jordan Grigg

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 149

Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing praise to God in the congregation of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in its creator;
let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.
Let them praise God's name in the dance;
let them sing praise to the LORD with timbrel and harp.

HYMN 645 "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

PRAYER OF THE DAY (in unison)

Lord God of the nations, you have revealed your will to all people and promised us your saving help. May we hear and do what you command, that the darkness may be overcome by the power of your light. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

A READING FROM THE STORY OF ELIJAH

I Kings 18: 20-39

So Ahab sent to all the Israelites, and assembled the prophets at Mount Carmel. Elijah then came near to all the people, and said, "How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." The people did not answer him a word. Then Elijah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets number four hundred fifty. Let two bulls be given to us; let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it; I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. Then you call on the name of your god and I will call on the name of the LORD; the god who answers by fire is indeed God." All the people answered, "Well spoken!" Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many; then call on the name of your god, but put no fire to it." So they took the bull that was given them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, crying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice, and no answer. They limped about the altar that they had made. At noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud! Surely he is a god; either he is meditating, or he has wandered away, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened." Then they cried aloud and, as was their custom, they cut themselves with swords and lances until the blood gushed out over them. As midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice, no answer, and no response.

Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come closer to me"; and all the people came closer to him. First he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down; Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD came, saying, "Israel shall be your name"; with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD. Then he made a trench around the altar, large enough to contain two measures of seed. Next he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He said, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." Then he said, "Do it a second time"; and they did it a second time. Again he said, "Do it a third time"; and they did it a third time, so that the water ran all around the altar, and filled the trench also with water.

At the time of the offering of the oblation, the prophet Elijah came near and said, "O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back." Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and even licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The LORD indeed is God; the LORD indeed is God."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 758 "Why Do Nations Rage Together"

SERMON *The Drought: This Means War*

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.

OFFERTORY

"Lead Me, Lord"
Patrick McCarthy and Family

John D. Becker

Offerings for God's work through Paw Creek Church are gratefully received in the baskets by the entrance and exits to the sanctuary, or by mail to the church office.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Leader: Blessed are you, God of all creation.

Congregation: **Through your goodness we have good gifts to share.**

Leader: Accept and use our offerings for your glory.

Congregation: **And for the service of your kingdom.**

All: **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Beginning with Joys and Concerns, and concluding with *The Lord's Prayer*, in unison

HYMN 450

"Be Thou My Vision"

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Postlude on Slane"

Steven Griffin

Please remain seated so that all worshippers, in the sanctuary and online, may enjoy the blessing of the music.

WELCOME TOMASZ ROBAK!

The Administration and Worship committees are pleased to introduce Tomasz Robak, who will serve as our interim church musician beginning August 15 and continuing through the fall. Tom is a pianist and organist, with degrees in Piano Performance from Peabody Conservatory and Rice University. He is currently on the music faculty of Davidson College, and has served as a substitute organist at several local Presbyterian churches. He and his family live in Davidson.