

... carry the
CROSS
and follow me...

Luke 14:27, NRSV

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ASHLAND, KENTUCKY**



The ♥ of Ashland

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 25, 2022

10:50 a.m.

✠ We Gather in God's Name ✠

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Bill Pollack

Prelude

Max Jackson

Two Pieces in C Major
(Eugene Gigout)

Call to Worship

Geri Willis

Leader: Lord, who may dwell in Your sacred tent? Who may live on Your holy mountain?

People: The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart.

Leader: What does the Lord require of us?

People: To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

All: Lord, purify our hearts that we may be blameless and humble as we walk with You.

† **Hymn of Praise**

#267

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice;
praise is His gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!

He is our guide and friend; to us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!

Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore His goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!

† **Call to Confession**

† **Prayer of Confession**

We have failed as your church, O God. You call us to live faithfully, act justly and bring peace to the earth. Instead, our lives and your church reflect more of our needs and worries and less of the needs and worries of all peoples. Move us beyond ourselves to hear the cry of the world and to respond with acts and deeds of kindness, mercy, and justice. May your grace shine through a church that, even with its shortcomings, accepts the call of Christ to serve and care and love and bring peace. May we feel your forgiving spirit now. Amen.

† **Assurance of Pardon**

† **Response**

#581

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.

✠ **We Listen to God's Word** ✠

Children's Message

Pastor Bill

Project Dress a Girl Blessing

Anthem

Chancel Choir

Immortal Love, Forever Full
(Philip R. Dietterich, Composer)

Immortal Love, forever full, forever flowing free.
Forever shared, forever whole, a never ebbing sea!
Our outward lips confess the Name all other names above.
Love only knoweth whence it came, and comprehendeth love.
We may not climb the heavenly steps to bring the Lord Christ down.
In vain we search the lowest deeps for Him no depths can drown.
O Lord and Master of us all whatever our name or sign.
We own Thy sway, we hear Thy call, we trust our lives by Thine.

Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson

Jeremiah 18:1 – 11 (NRSV)

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ²“Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear My words.” ³So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. ⁴The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. ⁵Then the word of the LORD came to me: ⁶Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel. ⁷At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, ⁸but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. ⁹And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, ¹⁰but if it does evil in My sight, not listening to My voice, then I will change My mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. ¹¹Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the LORD: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

L: The Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God!

Psalm 23

#803

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

My shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is His name.

In pastures fresh He makes me feed, beside the living stream.

He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake His ways,
and leads me, for His mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death Your presence is my stay;
one word of Your supporting breath drives all my fears away.

Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;
my cup with blessings overflows; Your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
O may Your house be my abode, and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come;
no more a stranger, or a guest, but like a child at home.

† **The Gospel Lesson**

Luke 14:25 – 33 (NRSV)

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with Him, and He turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to Me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be My disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become My disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

L: The Word of the Lord

P: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Rev. Bill Pollack

“What If?”

✠ **We Respond to God’s Word** ✠

† **Hymn of Response**

#475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it, mount of God’s unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by Thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for Thy courts above.

† **Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; 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 Acknowledgement

Special Offering: *CAReS*

† **Doxology**

#606

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

✠ **We Are Sent in God's Name** ✠

† **Hymn of Sending**

#738

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

O Master, let me walk with Thee
in lowly paths of service free,
Tell me Thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil,
the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay
and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me Thy patience, still with Thee in closer,
dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
In peace that only Thou canst give, with Thee,
O Master, let me live.

Closing Voluntary

Max Jackson

If You Will Only Let God Guide You
(Johann G. Walther)

† **Benediction**

† *Standing if you are able.*

SERVING TODAY

Head Usher: *Cathy Wilson*
Liturgist: *Geri Willis*
Videographer: *Ryan Whitman*

LAST WEEK'S RECAP

Attendance: Poage Landing Community Worship
Offering: \$575.00
Sew Blessed: \$100.00

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Armchair Theologians: *Mysteries of the Messiah*, 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship, 10:50 a.m.

Birthday Celebration for Max Jackson, Noon

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Session, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m./Bob Evans
Bells Rehearsal, 5:45 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.



- **Operation Christmas Child** shoeboxes will be available. Sunday, October 2.
- **Peace & Global Witness Special Offering** will be received Sundays October 2, 9 and 16.
- **Table & Treat for Kids**, Sunday, October 23
- **Pastor & Staff Appreciation Luncheon**, Sunday, October 23
- **All Saints' Sunday**, October 30

Watch for your October "Heartbeats" newsletter for additional information on each of these events.

Project Dress a Girl Around the World

ABOUT US

In 2009, Dress a Girl Around the World started when founder Rachel Eggum Cinader, needed a project for the Hope 4 Women International's tailoring program in Uganda. She remembered a pillowcase dress pattern she had been given and took it with her on her trip. Rachel and her sister Joan taught women at Smile Africa to make the dresses. A month later, Pastor Ruth, the program's director sent pictures of the Karamojong girls wearing the dresses the women had made. Seeing the girls smiling faces in their beautiful new dresses inspired people to inquire about making dresses. 50 dresses were then sent to Honduras and those photos of girls beaming with pride got everyone hooked!



OUR PILLARS OF HOPE

Dress a Girl Around the World delivers dresses and hope to girls in need and who are at risk around the world. In receiving "God's best dress," not only are these girls being gifted what could be their first ever new dress, they're also receiving our 4 Pillars of Hope: Dignity, Health, Joy and Love.

Dignity

Our goal is to restore a sense of worth to vulnerable girls suffering from extreme poverty. Being given a beautiful new dress and being told it was made just for her by someone who loves her and prays for her can give her a new feeling of self-worth and dignity.

Health

We provide education in basic health and hygiene practices which leads to better health for the girls and their communities.

Joy

Imagine a little girl being given a brand new, beautifully made dress – made just for her and being celebrated like a princess. She twirls around in joy and smiles. For most of these girls, this is a new exhilarating experience.

Love

As a Christian organization, the foundation of everything we do is to show the love of Jesus. Our hope is that once the people we help experience God's love, they will pass it on in their communities.

It began with a dream for the children of the world. Girls who were taken from their families for the purpose of human trafficking. These dresses are marked with special labels that offer protection from would be traffickers. First Presbyterian Church received a grant from the Transylvania Presbytery to help in providing these dresses. We are grateful for their gift. Sew Blessed is pleased to report they sewed **36 dresses** for *Project Dress a Girl Around the World*. We celebrate and rejoice for each of these dresses. We will dedicate these dresses to the glory of God and for the recipients of these dresses. Thank you, Sew Blessed!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Week ending September 23, 2022

Mary Brown (Kim & Mike Whitman's daughter)

Judy Fannin

Donna Isaacs (Kelly Hanni's mother)

Nancy Payne

Mary Vanderhoof (John Ferguson's mother)

Kim Whitman

Week ending September 16, 2022

Pastor Bill

Nancy Jackson (Steve Jackson's wife)

Week ending September 9, 2022

Mike Hall (Geri Willis' brother)

Prayer requests will rotate off after three weeks. If you have an ongoing concern, please contact the church office.

Ongoing: Derek Payne, Nancy Payne, Janet Winans,
Ann & Jim Wiseman

Morning Pointe: Carolyn Graber

Military:

Erik Adkins (USAF Reserves, Dayton, OH, son of Kris Adkins)

Cadet Katie Brown

(West Point, granddaughter of Kim & Mike Whitman)

Major Scott A. Brown (husband of Mary Whitman Brown)

Lieutenant Colonel Chris Potter (USAF, Germany, nephew of Max
& Lois Jackson, Bruce & Cindy Roe, and Roger & Pam Potter)

Major Kaitlin Whitmore (US Army, niece of Don & Judy Lily)

SERMON NOTES

What If?

[Luke 14:25 – 33]

STAFF

Minister: *Rev. William Pollack*
Choirmaster, Organist: *Max Jackson*
Administrative Assistant: *Nanette Pollack*
Custodian: *Glen Thomas*
Nursery Attendant: *Kara Adkins*

SESSION MEMBERS

President of Congregation: *Mitch Hall*
Secretary of Congregation/Clerk of Session: *Kelly Hanni*
Treasurer: *Cathy Wilson*

2022	2023	2025
<i>Judy Fannin</i>	<i>Cathy Wilson*</i>	<i>Kelly Hanni</i>
<i>Mitch Hall</i>	<i>J.T. Norris</i>	<i>Kim Whitman</i>
<i>Ryan Whitman</i>	<i>Breck Tarr</i>	<i>Geri Willis</i>
		*2nd term of service

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building & Grounds:

Judy Fannin

Christian Education:

Kim Whitman & Lee McCloud

Congregational Life:

Cathy Wilson

Finance: *Trish Hall*

Membership: *Breck Tarr*

Mission: *Geri Willis*

Personnel: *Janet Holbrook*

Worship: *Ryan Whitman*

To visit the church website, scan the code below.



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