

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO**

**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2017
10:00 A.M.**

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION

“Toys for Tots”

Jim Bloodhart

CHIMES

PRELUDE

“Thanks Be to Thee” (Handel)

CALL TO WORSHIP

From Psalm 90

Lord, you have been our dwelling-place
in all generations.

**Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

You turn us back to dust,
and say, ‘Turn back, you mortals.’

**For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.**

You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;

**in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.**

Who considers the power of your anger?

Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due to you.

**So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.**

***OPENING HYMN #33**

“Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show” (Williams)

***OPENING PRAYER**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, through your Holy Spirit you have given each one of us precious gifts: particular abilities, skills, aptitudes, and talents. You call us to use these gifts faithfully in the service of your kingdom, and especially in serving those who are powerless and vulnerable. We confess that we are prone to employ them instead for our own purposes and needs. We tend to focus on our immediate concerns, neglecting your kingdom already present with us and among us. Forgive us, we pray. Send your Spirit again to reorient our priorities. Make of us good and trustworthy disciples of Christ, who continuously calls us to joyful service in his name. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*GLORY BE TO THE FATHER #581

Gloria Patri (*Greatorex*)

**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.**

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Zephaniah 1:12-18

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

“The Heavens Are Telling” (Beethoven)

*READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Matthew 25:14-30

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

A MOMENT FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

SERMON

“Return on Investment Required”

*HYMN #662

“Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies” (German Folk Melody)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From *The Westminster Confession* (1649)

Good works, done in obedience to God’s commandments, are the fruits and evidences of a true and lively faith: and by them believers manifest their thankfulness, strengthen their assurance, edify their brothers and sisters, adorn the profession of the gospel, stop the mouths of adversaries, and glorify God, whose workmanship they are, created in Christ Jesus, that, having the fruit of holiness, they may have the end, eternal life.

SHARING OF PRAYER REQUESTS

THE PEOPLE’S PRAYER

God of hope,

We want to see the future so that we may know we are secure.

We want to be certain that tomorrow will be alright.

We want to have life all buttoned down and figured out so there will be no surprises.

We want to be free of all anxiety and worry.

We want to know that when the end of the age comes, we will be safe.

We pray that in this moment you would again open to us your powerful and grace-filled presence.

Lead our spirits to find the courage to say, “All will be well because we are yours.”

Lead our spirits to find the ability to live one moment and one day at a time.

Lead our spirits to serenity and a peace which the world cannot give.

Lead our spirits to know that through your power we can cope with whatever surprises life presents to us.

Lead our spirits to know that we are destined “not for wrath” but for your redeeming.

And lead our spirits to know that “whether we wake or sleep,” living or dying, we are yours, now and forever. Amen

MUSICAL OFFERING

“This Is My Father’s World” (Harris)

*PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW #606 (Genevan Psalter)

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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
holy is your name;
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN #700**

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"
(African American Spiritual)

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

*Please stand if you are able where asterisks are printed.