

**Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas**  
**First Presbyterian Church—Winnsboro, TX**  
**May 29, 2022**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**The Chimes, the Flames, and the Waters**  
**Greetings and Announcements**  
(\*)-Stand if Able

**We Prepare to Receive the Word**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship** *based on Psalm 97 (responsive)*

God rules the Earth with justice:

**Earth and Earth's people rejoice!**

All nature serves God:

Fire clears the way and lightening lights God's path:

**Earth and Earth's people rejoice!**

The heavens proclaim God's righteousness;

All peoples behold God's glory:

**Earth and Earth's people rejoice!**

Delight in God, O coastlands and heartlands;

Give thanks to God, O faithful ones:

**Earth and Earth's people rejoice!**

**Opening Prayer**

\*Hymn: #455 "All Creatures of our God and King."

**Prayer of Confession - Unison**

**Forgive us, O God, when we treat people as though they are just a nuisance.**  
**when we are annoyed with others' behavior when people unexpectedly**  
**assert themselves when we find it difficult to include those who think or act**  
**differently from the norm when we are cruel in our judgements or exclusion.**  
**Forgive us, O God, when we do not hear or heed Jesus' prayer for unity**

**We pray for all who exploit their workers for profit. We pray for all those who**  
**experience exploitation and feel their helplessness. Open our eyes to any**  
**ways in which we can encourage justice. [a moment for silent confession]**  
**Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

\*The 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. Amen. Amen."

**We Receive the Word**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Reading: Acts 16: 16-34 (Responsive) See insert**

**Second Reading: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21**

\*Hymn: **Sing the Faith #2062 "The Lily of the Valley"**

**Gospel Reading: John 17:20-26**

\*Hymn: **Sing the Faith #2223 "They'll Know We Are Christians"**

**We Respond to the Word**

\*The 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 at 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.**

**Prayers of Intercession / The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)**

**The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings**

**\*The Doxology - Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*The Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Hymn: #151 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"**

**\*Charge and Benediction (RESPONSIVE)** Please join me for the benediction reading responsively.

As people of faith we have gathered for worship.

**As people of faith we now return to the world.**

Go out to share the story of faith,

the story of life, with the world around you.

**We share the faith in word and in deed,  
in speech and in action.**

As you go out to give a living witness,

as you go out to testify to God's love active in the world,

go knowing that God goes with you,

sharing the laughter and the hope, the fears and the tears.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*Benediction response: #106 chorus only "Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name."**

*To our guest*

*We are so glad that you joined us today. We believe that it was no accident that you came here, and that God has given us the opportunity to share the love, grace, and saving gospel of Jesus with you. And so, it is our prayer that you feel loved in this place, and we want you to know that you are welcomed no matter what is going on in your life. We will embrace you with the same grace that God has embraced us with, and we will proclaim to you the same good news that has called us and saved us. If you want to make this church your home, and these people your family let us know after the service or by phone or email later this week. We would love to welcome you into Jesus' family.*

Call to Worship~ from *One in Love and Mission*, written by Rev. Susan A. Blain.

Benediction~ posted by Rev Gord on his blog, Worship Offerings. <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/>

Reader's Theatre ~ <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>

Opening Prayer ~ written by Joan Stott and posted on The Timeless Psalms.

Confession~ from the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand website

**First Reading: Acts 16: 16-34 - Responsive - Congregation will read part “Two.”**

One: One day as we were going down to the place of prayer, we met demon-possessed slave girl. She was a fortune-teller who earned a lot of money for her masters. She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting,

**Two: These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved.**

One: This went on day after day until Paul got so exasperated that he turned and said to the demon within her,

Three: I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.

One: And instantly it left her. Her masters' hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace.

**Two: The whole city is in an uproar because of these Jews! They are teaching customs that are illegal for us Romans to practice.**

One: A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods. They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape. So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks. Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off! The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. But Paul shouted to him,

Three: Stop! Don't kill yourself! We are all here!

One: The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and asked,

**Two: Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**

Three: Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household.

One: And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household. Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. He brought them into his house and set a meal before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God.