



First Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

February 24, 2019

11:00 a.m.

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The mission of First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg is to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ, who know God and, through love, serve the Lord and others. We will accomplish our mission by practicing radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission, and extravagant generosity.

PREPARATION

(Please use the prelude as a time for reflection and preparation for worship.)

**Please stand, if able. Responses are in boldface.*

PRELUDE

"Prelude and Fugue in C" (BWV 553)

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)

Jack Rain, organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, people of God, to the one in whom we trust. Praise God who delivers and rescues us.

God is our rock of refuge, our strong fortress. God saves us amid wickedness and cruelty.

Hope in God, who has created you. Open yourself to the one who knows you well.

God accepts us, even when people do not. God affirms us, even when we fail.

Our God gives us tasks to do and strength to do them. God's Word of love is ours to proclaim.

We have come to embrace the mysteries of our faith. We are here to worship the God who empowers us.

INTROIT

"Let the Words of Our Mouths"

Karle Erickson

Chancel Choir

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our rock and our salvation.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 35**

"Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

LOBE DEN HERREN

PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Susan Luehrs

Merciful God, you know us better than we know ourselves, but we have not believed this. You care about us even when we do not love ourselves, but it has been hard for us to understand that this is true. We see so dimly and hear your Word so faintly that we doubt your truth. We dare not trust the prophets or risk the cost of discipleship. We are afraid to believe, hope, and endure when there is suffering all around us. O God, grant us courage to change, to follow Jesus in spite of ridicule and rejection. Yet keep us from insisting on our own way, which may not be your way. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Susan Luehrs

God does not condemn us for our imperfection nor abandon us to our fears. The one who designed our being promises to be with us when we are challenged, to deliver us when it seems the whole world is against us, to love us at all times and in all circumstances. We are forgiven, healed, and empowered for our ministry.

Thanks be to God.

PROCLAMATION

CHILDREN'S SERMON

(Children are invited to come forward to the pulpit area for the Children's Sermon. Afterward, they may return to their parent or guardian or leave the sanctuary for Godly Play.)

*HYMN 612

"We Praise You, O God"

KREMSE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Lesson: Psalm 71: 1-6

Susan Luehrs

(pew Bible, Old Testament, page 654)

Second Lesson: Luke 4:21-30

Dr. Dawn Conti

(pew Bible, New Testament, page 75)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

"Out of the Mouth of Babes"

Dr. Dawn Conti

RESPONSE

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

(concluding with) **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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

“Give unto the Lord”
Chancel Choir

Warren Angell

Worship the Lord of hosts. Give unto the Lord, all ye mighty, glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters: The God of glory thundereth: The Lord is upon many waters. Worship the Lord of hosts. The voice of the Lord is powerful; The voice of the Lord is full of majesty: and in his temple they speak of his glory. The Lord gives strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace. Worship the Lord always.

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

*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.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 295

“Go to the World!”

SINE NOMINE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Fugue in G Minor”

Johann Krieger
(1651–1735)

*The congregation is invited to come forward and stand by the organ console.
The minister is available at the door as you leave.*