

TO SERVE YOU . . .

Pastor..... Rev. Peter Rupprecht
 Telephone..... cell: 573-205-7856
 Liturgist..... Mae Lou Fredeking
 Pianist Suzanne Scott
 Greeters Nan Feese & Jean Krebs
 Coffee/Cookie Servers Charlie & Valeta Betz
 Deacons..... Michele Busse & Doll Jones
 Elder on Call..... LaRue Bryant

Next Sunday Cookie Servers ~ Mae Lou Fredeking

WE PRAY FOR . . .

Mike Kaufman, Janice Ingersol, Lula Johnston, Jean Chandler, Carole Wensel, Doll Jones, Linda Harms (Nan's daughter), Carl Robison (Iva's son), Tom Stout, Lucille Rommelman, James Morrow, Valerie Reimer, our homebound and shut-ins, our soldiers, our country and its leaders, elders, deacons and our pastor and his family.

First Presbyterian Church

Sullivan, Missouri



...knock, and the door will be opened for you.

Luke 11:9

17TH Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, July 25th, 2010

11:00 a.m.

285 E. Springfield Rd., Sullivan, Missouri 63080

Church office: 573-468-6364

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Pastor: Peter Rupprecht (cell: 573-205-7856)

Our Mission: Reaching Out with God's Light and Love

Today's worship Theme (17th Sunday of Ordinary Time): *Our worship today raises up the dual themes of prayer and persistence, as we hear Abraham persistently interceding for Sodom in his prayer, and Jesus urges us to persist in our praying—for God listens to our prayers. As the Psalmist wrote, "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."*

We welcome you to worship today!

[* Congregation invited to stand, as able]



Thank you for turning off or silencing your cell-phone!

- LARGE PRINT HYMNALS are available at the worship entrance
- **PH** = Presbyterian Hymnal (large blue) / **SF** = Sing the Faith – (small blue)

___ PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP / GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE ___

Prelude..... *"Morning Has Broken"*

[*The light of Christ enters our worship with the lighting of our candles*]

Welcome and Announcements

Introit..... *"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"*

Call To Worship:

L: Come and worship the God who created us.

C: We come to sing praises and offer our prayers.

L: Come and listen to the God who speaks to us still.

**C: In the Scriptures and in the sermon
we listen for God to speak to us.**

L: God is faithful and wants to speak words of life to all.

C: We are here, O God, to listen and to obey.

Prayer of Invocation

L: Let us pray. We have come to worship. Spirit, empower our prayers and praise. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

L: Loving God, since we know that you love a cheerful giver, we offer these gifts to you with joy. Fill us with gladness as we celebrate all of the grace that we have received through Jesus Christ. May our gifts build up the church and testify to the world of your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

* Hymn..... *"O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"* (PH hymnal) No. 357

* Charge and Blessing

P: Go from this time of worship to be God's people in the world. May the peace of Christ surround you and strengthen all that you do. Amen.

* Go Forth Hymn..... *"Seek Ye First"* (PH hymnal) No. 333

* Salutation:

L: And all God's people said,

C: Amen!

We follow the light of Christ out into the world!

* Postlude..... *"On Jordan's Stormy Banks"*

Scripture passages: NRSV, copyright (c) 1989.

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD AND GRACE

* **Affirmation of Faith** -- Apostles Creed [*Ecumenical version; PH, p.14*]

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 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.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer / Sharing of Joys and Concerns

[*After each petition:*] P: ...Lord, in your mercy, **C: Hear our Prayer.**

Offering Invitation

L: Let us return to God our offerings, remembering the wisdom of Jesus when he said, it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Offerings / Offertory "*Melody*"

* **The Doxology** (*PH hymnal*) No. 592

*C: 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*

* **Hymn** "*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*" (*PH*) No. 387

Call to Confession

P: It is not easy to confess our shortcomings or to ask for God's forgiveness. And the more we need it, the more difficult it often is to ask for it. But in love, God offers us opportunities such as this to come to Him and to meet our most basic spiritual needs. Let us confess our sin to God.

Prayer of Confession

C: Loving God, you know our hearts, our thoughts, and our minds. And so, we trust you enough to offer our confession, knowing that your mercy is beyond our understanding. Restore us as only you can. We have fallen short in these ways . . . Amen.
(silence)

Assurance of Forgiveness:

P: Hear the good news! As parents love their children and have compassion on them, so God has mercy on us all. As we have made our sincere confession, God has given us two special gifts: complete forgiveness and a new start on life. Living in this assurance we find our true peace.
C: Amen.

* **Glory Be to the Father [Hymn]** (*PH hymnal*) No. 577

* **Passing the Peace of Christ**

[*The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.*]



GOD'S WORD TO US

Prayer of Illumination

L: O Lord our God, where else shall we go, for you have the words of eternal life. Guide us, direct us and teach us by your word. Amen.

First Reading

[Genesis 18:20-32] pg. 25

A reading from the book of Genesis, the 18th chapter. Abraham comes to God in prayer and persistently asks for mercy for the city of Sodom, for the sake of any righteous people living there.) ²⁰Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know." ²²So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD.

²³Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?" ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake."

²⁷Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the LORD, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there."

²⁹Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it."

³⁰Then he said, "Oh do not let the LORD be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there."

³¹He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the LORD. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it."

³²Then he said, "Oh do not let the LORD be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it." *Holy wisdom, Holy word.*

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn "The Church's One Foundation" (PH hymnal) No. 442

* **The Holy Gospel**, according to Luke

[Luke 11:1-10] pg. 1613

(Jesus teaches his followers how to pray, and encourages us to have child-like trust and persistence in our praying.) (Jesus) was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

²He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. ³Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' ⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. *The Word of the Lord,*

C: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "What If God Answered?!" Pastor Peter Rupprecht