

Presbytery of St. Augustine
Morning Worship – October 1, 2024

Prelude – Wayne Bodiford, Choir Leader, First–Palatka

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP – Stephen Crowley, Moderator

ONE: As we prepare for worship, we acknowledge that the land upon which we meet today was occupied by others long before our ancestors arrived here and so together, we say:

ALL: Indigenous people have occupied this area for thousands of years. We honor and appreciate the Seminole, Miccosukee, and Timucua Tribes of Florida whose rich legacy we celebrate. We acknowledge these first peoples and their stewardship of this land upon which we meet today and recognize that our forebears engaged in many egregious acts against indigenous people here and all across our country. Brothers and sisters let us worship together.

WE ARE CALLED TO WORSHIP – Laurel Lamme, CRE Candidate

ONE: With the joy that comes from being in community let us "Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day."

ALL: With the joy that comes from being in community, we call all who are gathered here to worship.

HYMN – Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

GATHERING PRAYER – Tommy Lane, CRE, McIntosh

We gather in joy as we pray together these words:

Oh Lord, free us to thank God for each other!

**Free us to click orange juice glasses across your kingdom,
in every family and the larger family of the gathered church.**

Here's to you, saints who remembered to love!

**Here's to those who heal, teach, listen, and comfort,
who feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give a cup of cold water,
weep with those who weep, rejoice with those who rejoice,
and stand by to pick us up and brush us off!**

**Here's to the peacemakers and the prophets—
their justice, their mercy, their humility,
their strength that does not falter!**

**Here's to those who have been freed to free us,
to their song that never ends,
to the saints who keep on dancing!**

Here's to you!

- Ann Weems

WE CONFESS & FIND PARDON – Rick Mills, CRE Candidate, First–Palatka

ONE: It's very simple: all God asks is that we recognize our sin and acknowledge it. And why? When we offer our prayers of confession, God takes our sins from us and fills our hearts with such an abundance of mercy, we cannot hold it all. Together as a joyful community let us first join in responsive confession and then in silence: Lord of Life, you call us to rest, but we are too busy working.

You call us to offer rest to others, but we are too busy demanding.

You call us to remember that you are always at work in our lives, but we are too busy worrying.

You fill our lives with joy, but we forget to be joyful!

Yes, we forget to share your joy!

You call us to practice peace, yet we forget to be peaceful.

Forgive our constant striving and our obsession with work.

Forgive our forgetfulness.

Remind us that our value comes from you, not from anything we produce or how productive we appear to others.

ALL: Teach us the rhythms of your grace and grant us rest for our weary souls.

And now, in silence we talk with God about those sins that are ours alone.

ONE: Siblings in Christ, see the empty cross and the full table. The table is full as a reminder of Christ's life and death for us. The cross is empty, because we have a risen Lord, who has taken the burden of sin upon him so that we need not carry the guilt of it any longer. Rejoice, we are a forgiven people!

ALL: Thanks be to God.

GLORIA PATRI

ANTHEM – Musicians from First–Palatka

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Rick Mills, CRE Candidate First–Palatka

God of light and life, by your word you spoke the world into being.

By the power of your Holy Spirit, speak your word to us today,
that we might testify to the light and life of Jesus Christ our Savior. AMEN

THE SCRIPTURE

Psalm 16:1-11 – Laurel Lamme

John 15:12-17 – Tommy Lane

THE WORD PREACHED AND HEARD – Suzie Cornelio, CRE Candidate,
First–Palatka

THE OFFERING – Laurel Lamme

Tithes and offerings are gathered as an act of thanksgiving to God. Today we celebrate the mission and ministry of Interface Family & Youth Services by giving abundantly and joyfully in Christ's name, because as it says in the book of Hebrews, "Do good and share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

THE DOXOLOGY

THE EUCHARIST – Ricky Kirby, CRE, Orange Park

Jerie Lukefar, CRE, First–Fernandina

STATEMENT OF FAITH (From the Theological Declaration of Barmen) – Rick Mills

Written by Karl Barth and the confessing church in Nazi Germany in 1934, this Declaration was a response to Hitler's national church. It reaffirms the church's profession of the sovereignty of God, the authority of Scripture, and the salvation of Jesus Christ. In those affirmations we hear a resounding denial of Hitler's hostile, Nazi claims of sovereignty, authority, and salvation.

Leader: The Confessional Synod of the German Evangelical Church met in Barmen, May 29-31, 1934. Here representatives from all the German Confessional Churches met with one accord in a confession of the one Lord of the one, holy, apostolic Church.

People: In opposition to attempts to establish the unity of the German Evangelical Church by means of false doctrine, by the use of force and insincere practices, the Confessional Synod insists that the unity of the Evangelical Churches in Germany can come only from the Word of God in faith through the Holy Spirit.

Leader: Do not listen to the seducers who pervert our intentions, as if we wanted to break up the unity of the German Evangelical Church or to forsake the Confessions of the Fathers!

People: If you find that we are speaking contrary to Scripture, then do not listen to us!

Leader: But if you find that we are taking our stand upon Scripture, then let no fear or temptation keep you from treading with us the path of faith and obedience to the Word of God, in order that God's people be of one mind upon earth and that we in faith experience what he himself has said: "I will never leave you, nor forsake you."

People: We are bound together by the confession of the one Lord of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

Leader: We confess the following evangelical truths:

People: Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death.

Tommy Lane

Leader: As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so, in the same way and with the same seriousness he is also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures.

People: We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ and not need justification and sanctification through him.

Leader: We reject the false doctrine, as though the Church were permitted to abandon the form of its message and order to its own pleasure or to changes in prevailing ideological and political convictions.

People: We reject the false doctrine, as though the Church, apart from this ministry, could and were permitted to give itself, or allow to be given to it, special leaders vested with ruling powers.

Leader: Scripture tells us that, in the as yet unredeemed world in which the Church also exists, the State has by divine appointment the task of providing for justice and peace. The Church acknowledges the benefit of this divine appointment in gratitude and reverence before him. It calls to mind the Kingdom of God, God's commandment and righteousness, and thereby the responsibility both of rulers and of the ruled. It trusts and obeys the power of the Word by which God upholds all things.

People: We reject the false doctrine, as though the State, over and beyond its special commission, should and could become the single and totalitarian order of human life, thus fulfilling the Church's vocation as well.

Leader: The Confessional Synod of the German Evangelical Church declares that it sees in the acknowledgment of these truths and in the rejection of these errors the indispensable theological basis of the German Evangelical Church as a federation of Confessional Churches.

People: It invites all who are able to accept its declaration to be mindful of these theological principles in their decisions in Church politics. It entreats all whom it concerns to return to the unity of faith, love, and hope.

HYMN - I've Got Joy in My Heart

BENEDICTION - Suzie Cornelio

POSTLUDE - Wayne Bodiford