

July 23, 2023

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come and see the love God has given to us.

Come and see what it means to be children of God.

Come with this hope, that Christ's presence is real.

With joy, we come to see the Lord.

GATHERING MUSIC

HYMN 840

When Peace like a River

PRAYER (from Worship Ways UCC)

God, the encourager, God, the compassionate, God, the merciful, holy, blessed: Disturb us. Rouse us from our sleep. Lift us into consciousness of your presence.

Change us, move us, mold us for the better; so that, at the sound of your voice, at the call of our name, we will never be the same. May our worship do this and so much more, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

OPENING MUSIC

SEEKING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(adapted from Rev. Jenny McDevitt)

Merciful God, forgive us. We are willing to follow you, so long as the road is easy. We are eager to speak for you, so long as the words are agreeable. We are desperate to love you, so long as the cost is not too high. O Lord, have mercy on us. Renew a right spirit within us and grant us the courage to follow where you lead.

(Silent prayers)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

RESPONSE

HYMN 421

Have Mercy, God, Upon My Life

CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION

***HYMN 749**

Come! Live in the Light!

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 5: 17 - 21

SERMON

"Reconciled"

Rev. Scott Lawson

ANTHEM

O Christ the Great Foundation

By S.S. Wesley

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Offering boxes are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Gifts may also be made online at starmountpres.org.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Excerpt from The Belhar Confession)

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells. We believe that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

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.

***HYMN 727**

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

BENEDICTION

***Please stand in body or spirit**

*The flowers are given to the glory of God by Dianne Delaney:
In loving memory of Joyce McGhee Doss from your family.

Announcements

Thank you for joining us for worship this Sunday! We hope you will find it to be an uplifting and meaningful experience. If you are a **guest or visitor**, we invite you to stop by our information desk in the Narthex (entry space). We have a gift for you as well as some information about our wonderful community of faith. If you feel comfortable sharing your contact information, we invite you to also fill out a visitor card.

Families with young children are invited to stop by the children's corner in the Narthex. Here you can check in your children for nursery care and staff can direct you to our downstairs classrooms. There are also worship/activity bags available.

Church office hours for the week of July 24th will be:

- **Mon. – Thurs.: 8:30 am – 2 pm**
- **Fri.: 8:30 am – 1 pm**

Starmount Summer of Service – This summer, Starmount will be offering opportunities to volunteer at many agencies in our community:

- Monday, July 24, 2:30 -4:00 pm - Backpack Beginnings Warehouse & Family Market
- Saturday, Aug. 5, 8:30 am -3:30 pm - Habitat for Humanity Build

Please check your emails for more information and to sign up for these opportunities.

Vacation Bible School 2023 will be held **July 24 – 27, 9 am – Noon**. If you are interested in volunteering, making a donation for supplies or sponsoring a child to attend VBS please contact Cindy Lee at cindy@starmountpres.org.

Prayground – Next Sunday, July 30, we will have worship services specifically aimed towards inclusion of children! We will have a prayground space for children to learn & play during worship, multiple children's times during the service, and elements chosen to engage children. The nursery will still be available that Sunday for families with children 2 and under if you choose. Check-in for the nursery is at the kids' corner in the narthex. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cindy Lee, cindy@starmountpres.org.

Sanctuary Chairs - You may notice many of the chairs have been moved from the sanctuary. This is an experiment that comes out of the Session's work with the Presbyterian Foundation on how our sanctuary can feel warmer and more welcoming to visitors and guests. Most of the chairs have been relocated to the choir room. The Session and the Inspire Faith Ministry will continue to monitor and reevaluate this experiment. Thank you for your support and all you do to welcome our guests each Sunday morning.

Starmount Presbyterian Church Program Staff

Rev. Dr. Charlie Lee, Pastor

Rev. Scott Lawson, Parish Associate

Sarah Downey, Director of Music

Michael Parker, Pianist/Organist

Cindy Lee, Director of Children's Ministries

Laura Roberson Hadas, Director of Youth & Refugee Ministries



Starmount Presbyterian Church
starmountpres.org
(336) 299-8131

Welcome to Sunday Worship
July 23, 2023 · 10:00 a.m.