

**August 20, 2023**      **Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**HYMN 59**      *The Steadfast Love of the Lord*

**PRAYER**

**OPENING MUSIC**

**SEEKING GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (from Matthew 15: 21 - 28)  
**Merciful God, we confess that, just like Jesus' disciples, we too sometimes lose patience with people who need our help and support. Like the disciples, we find ourselves wishing that they would just go away and leave us in peace.**

**In Your mercy, forgive us. Remind us again of the deep love You showed toward us when we were still in need - a love so deep that it sent You willingly to the cross on our behalf. Show us how to love others as You have loved us.**

**Teach us Your compassion, so that we may be Your hands and feet to those in need. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**(Silent prayers)**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

**RESPONSE**

**HYMN 288**      *Spirit of the Living God*

**CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION**

**\*HYMN 710**      *We Lift Our Voices*

**SCRIPTURE READING**      Matthew 15: 21 - 28

**SERMON**      Laura Roberson Hadas

**ANTHEM**      *Make Me A Channel of Your Peace*  
arr. Holstein

**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](http://starmountpres.org).

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (From The Confession of 1967)

**God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind.**

**God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful, fragile disciples. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.**

**Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of life and society, and God's victory over all that is wrong. With an urgency born of this hope, we apply ourselves to our present tasks, ever striving for a better 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 700**      *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

**BENEDICTION**

**\*Please stand in body or spirit**

**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.

**Blessing of the Backpacks – Next Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>**, the children will join us in worship on the "prayground" and we will have a special blessing of the backpacks to begin the school year! All students and educators are welcome to bring their backpacks for this special day.

**Welcome Home Sunday** - Save the date, **Sunday, September 10**, for Welcome Home Sunday. All are invited to stay after worship for a time of fellowship. There will be refreshments, games and activities for kids and an opportunity to learn new ways to connect as a community!

**Starmount Presbyterian Youth (SPY)** activities for the month of August:

**August 25** – GHS Tailgate, find Laura in the parking lot before heading into the football game! She will have food and drinks. Bring your friends! Contact Laura for additional information [laura@starmountpres.org](mailto:laura@starmountpres.org)

**Starmount Organ project** - You may have noticed some empty space in the chancel area last Sunday. Our organ console is getting some much-needed repairs and updates. The organ technician has taken the console to his workshop and the work will be completed in about a month. Stay tuned for pictures and more updates as the process progresses!

**Plastics Recycling** – Did you notice the white recycling box in the Gathering Space? The Earth Care team is working with the NextTrex recycling program from August through January to collect plastic waste. Accepted items can be found on the box and in your weekly email.



### **Starmount Presbyterian Church Program Staff**

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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**  
**August 20, 2023 · 10:00 a.m.**