

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
Mills River, North Carolina

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 24, 2023

Sacred Place +++ Sacred Space
Please observe silence after the altar candles are lit



PRELUDE *This is My Father's World (Inspired by Pachelbel's Canon in D)*
Arr. Rebecca Moore

A bell rings three times; the people stand

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE HYMN *GTG# 394 Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come, with all your loving kindness; hear your people as we pray;
and your fullest benediction shed within these walls today.

Here bestow on all your servants what they seek from you to gain;
what they gain from you, forever with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign.

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory while unending ages run!

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be our God.
People For ever and ever. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE GTG #657 Sing to God, with joy and gladness, v. 1

Refrain: Sing to God, with joy and gladness, hymns and songs of gratitude; with the voice of praise discover that to worship God is good.

God unites the scattered people, gathers those who wandered far, heals the hurt and broken spirits, tending every wound and scar. **Refrain**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant God be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10-4:11

A reading from the book of Jonah.

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to

live.” But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 145:1-8

¹I will exalt you, O God my King, *
and bless your Name for ever and ever.

²**Every day will I bless you *
and praise your Name for ever and ever.**

³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
there is no end to his greatness.

⁴**One generation shall praise your works to another *
and shall declare your power.**

⁵I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *
and all your marvelous works.

⁶**They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *
and I will tell of your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

⁸**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with

all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and **see you** or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them **this is evidence** of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN *GTG #351 All Who Love and Serve Your City*

All who love and serve your city, all who bear its daily stress,
all who cry for peace and justice, all who curse and all who bless.

In your day of wealth and plenty, wasted work and wasted play,
call to mind the word of Jesus, "You must work while it is day."

For all days are days of judgment, and the Lord is waiting still,
drawing near a world that spurns him, offering peace from Calvary's hill.

Risen Lord, shall yet the city be the city of despair?

Come today, our judge, our glory. Be its name "The Lord is there!"

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

[Jesus said,] "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five

o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON The Rev. Tracey Kelly

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We

acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Sisters and brothers, the Lord is full of compassion and mercy. Let us pray to the Lord saying, “You, O God, are our hope; **You, O God, are our salvation.**”

Celebrant God of mercy, you have given us grace to pray with one heart and one voice; and have promised to hear the prayers of two or three who gather in your name. Fulfil now, we pray, the prayers and longings of your people as may be best for us and for your kingdom. Grant us in this world to know your truth, and in the world to come to see your glory. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins to God.

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

GATHERING *Will the Circle Be Unbroken*

by Ada Ruth Habershon

(The people return to their seats to gather for the Liturgy of the Table.)

Will the circle be unbroken, By and by, Lord, by and by?

There's a better home awaiting, In the sky, Lord, in the sky

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE *Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.*

OFFERTORY *I Surrender All*

Arr. Rebecca Moore

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

SANCTUS S 124 *Holy, holy, holy (Hurd)*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your

grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, an offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

*Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!*

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise. **Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

We are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

COMMUNION INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

(The bread and wine are given to the people. Please indicate that you would prefer a gluten-free wafer by placing your hands with palms together when you come up to receive Communion.)

COMMUNION HYMN *GTG #629 Jesus, the very thought of thee*

Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast.

But sweeter far thy face to see, and in my presence rest.

Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, nor can the mind recall
a sweeter sound than thy blest name, O Savior of us all.

O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek,
to those who fall, how kind thou art! How good to those who seek!

But what to those who find! Ah, this no tongue nor pen can show.
The love of Jesus, what it is none but his loved ones know.

Jesus, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize wilt be.
Jesus, be thou our glory now, and through eternity.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN *GTG #725 O Jesus, I have promised*

O Jesus I have promised to serve you to the end;
be now and always near me, my Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

O let me feel you near me! The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle; the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within,
but, Jesus, draw still nearer and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen, true guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
Now give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.

DISMISSAL/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Adult Christian Education, Sundays, 9:30 am

Men's Group, Saturday, Oct. 7, 9:00 am at the church

Women's Group, Saturday, Oct. 14, 9:00 am at the church

An Evening of Songs and Stories, Sept. 30, 4:00 pm

Blessing of the Animals, Oct. 8, Burning Blush Brewery, 3:00 pm

CONTACT INFORMATION

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