

**\*Hymn 306 (1, 3 and 5)**

“Blest Be the Tie that Binds”

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.  
We share our mutual woes; our mutual burdens bear.  
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.  
From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;  
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

**\*The Charge** (responsive)

Mark 12:28-31

Which commandment is the first of all?

**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
and with all your soul, and with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.**

And the second is this:

**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.  
There is no other commandment greater than these.**

**\*Blessing and Postlude**

“Postludium”

Peeters

*\*The congregation is invited to stand.*

**A hearing loop is active; set hearing aid to “T-coil.”**

Worship leaders and ensemble members are fully vaccinated.

Scripture passages are read from the NRSV.

The Morning Meditation is from Verse & Voice 04.22.20 (Sojourners email).

MPC is a congregation of the PC(USA), a member of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, an Earth Care Congregation and a Living Wage Certified Employer.

**MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Upper Anderson, Montreat, North Carolina  
August 15, 2021, 10:00 A.M.

**Morning Meditation**

Elizabeth Stice

*“All of our holy days are remembrances of the past that emphasize our hope for the future.”*

**Chimes of the Trinity and Ritual of Fellowship**

**Prelude**

“Foundation”

arr. Held

**Call to Worship** (liturgist)

from Psalm 111:1, 9-10

**\*Hymn 321**

“The Church’s One Foundation”

**Verses 1 and 2 are sung by the Choral Ensemble**

*The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord. She is his new creation by water and the word. From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride. With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died. Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth, her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth. One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food, and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.*

**CREEK SIDE:**

**Though with a scornful wonder**

**this world sees her oppressed,**

**by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,**

**yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: “How long?”**

**And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.**

**LAKE SIDE: Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,**

**she waits the consummation of peace forevermore:**

**till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,**

**and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.**

**ALL: Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,**

**and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:**

**O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,**

**like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.**

**Prayer of Confession** *followed by silent prayers of confession*

**Eternal God, in humility we confess  
that too often we have forgotten that we are yours.  
We have lived as if you were not there,  
as if our existence were mere happenstance or dumb luck,  
leaving our witness hollow, self-serving, and joyless.  
For this and many things, we ask your forgiveness and your strength.  
Remind us, and help us, we pray, to be who you made us to be,  
embodying your faithful kindness, compassion and self-giving,  
in every circumstance and with all of our neighbors in this world.**

**Kyrie Eleison 577** (minister)

“Lord, Have Mercy”

**Assurance of Pardon and Prayer for Illumination**

**Old Testament Reading**

I Kings 3:3-12

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**Hymn 687 (verses 1, 3, 5, 6)**

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

**The Choral Ensemble sings verses 1, 3, and 5:**

*Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home: Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame, from everlasting  
thou art God, to endless years the same. Time, like an ever rolling stream,  
bears all our years away; they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.*

**The Congregation sings Verse 6:**

**Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.**

**Scripture Readings**

Ephesians 5:15-17; Psalm 111

**Sermon**

Keith Grogg

“With My Whole Heart, in the Company of the Upright, in the Congregation”

**Prayers of the People and The 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.**

**Offertory**

“How Can I Keep from Singing?”

Lowry

**The Ensemble sings the first three verses; the congregation sings Verse 4:**

**The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I’m clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?**

**\*Prayer of Dedication and Affirmation of Faith**

A Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,  
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all  
to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned  
for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life  
for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.**