

***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**

***Postlude**

“Postlude”

Fletcher

**The congregation is invited to stand.*

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

Worship leaders, including singers, are fully vaccinated. For the safety of all and in accordance with local mandates, we remain masked through the service. Pulpit speakers will unmask while at the pulpit, which is kept at a safe remove from the congregation. Please observe safe distancing and refrain from physical contact such as hugs and handshakes. Disposable masks and hand sanitizer are available. The ventilation system is an outside exchange, meaning air is cycled out and fresh air cycled in. We believe it is safe to pass the offering plate.

The **Prayer of Confession** is adapted from Peter Marshall, “With Sorrow and True Repentance,” *The Prayers of Peter Marshall* (Grand Rapids: Chosen Books, 1993), 21.

Scripture passages are read from the NRSV.

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 22, 2021, 10:00 A.M.**

Morning Meditation

John 6:57

*“Just as the living Father sent me,
and I live because of the Father,
so whoever eats me
will live because of me.”*

Chimes of the Trinity and Ritual of Fellowship

Prelude

Improvisation on “Holy Manna”

Moore, arr. Hare

Call to Worship (liturgist)

Psalm 34:17-19

***Hymn 35**

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

Verse 1 is sung by the Congregation:

**Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!**

Verse 2 is sung by the Choral Ensemble:

*Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what he ordaineth?*

Verse 3 is sung by the Congregation:

**Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;
gladly, for aye we adore him.**

Welcoming of New Members (Feb. 2020-July 2021)

Prayer of Confession *followed by silent prayers of confession* Peter Marshall (adapt.)

**Forgiving Savior, you are not deceived
by the front that we polish so carefully for others to see.
We acknowledge with sorrow and true repentance
that we have desired what we should not have;
we have toyed with what we knew was not for us;
we have been preoccupied with self-interest;
we have invited unclean thoughts into our minds
and entertained them as honored guests;
our ears have often been deaf to your whisper;
our eyes have often been blind to signs of your guidance.
Make us willing to be changed, we pray,
that we may receive and accept the blessing of your forgiveness.**

Kyrie Eleison 577 (minister) “Lord, Have Mercy”

Assurance of Pardon and Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Joshua 24:1-3, 14-25
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Anthem “Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!” Crosby/Knapp

*The Ensemble sings all three verses and refrains,
after which the congregation repeats the refrain:*

**This is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.**

Gospel Reading John 6:56-69

Sermon “Every Day, We Choose” Keith Grogg

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 “Feed Us, Lord” Scheer

Prayer of Dedication

***Affirmation of Faith** (responsive) Heidelberg Catechism

Since we are redeemed from our sin and its consequences
by grace, through Christ, without any merit of our own,
why must we do good works?

**Because just as Christ has redeemed us with his blood,
he also renews us through his Holy Spirit
according to his own image, so that with our whole life
we may show ourselves grateful for God’s goodness
and that God may be glorified through us.**

***Hymn 541** (verses 1, 2, 3) “God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

Choral Ensemble sings verses 1 and 2. Congregation sings verse 3:

**God be with you till we meet again;
when life’s perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again.**