

***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**

“Blest as the Pure in Heart”

arr. M. Archer

**The congregation is invited to stand.*

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

Bulletins are placed on the chairs this morning. 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. As the current concerns are respiratory, we believe it is safe to pass the offering plate.

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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
The Service for the Lord’s Day
August 29, 2021, 10:00 A.M.**

Morning Meditation

Thomas Merton (1915-1968)

*“Wherever things
have become more important than people,
we are in trouble.
That is the crux of the whole matter.”*

Chimes of the Trinity

Ritual of Fellowship

Prelude

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love”

Ghanaian Folk Song

Adapt. T. Colvin/Setting R. Powell

Call to Worship (liturgist)

from Psalm 15:1-4

***Hymn 619 (verses 1 and 2)**

“Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”

**Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;
glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who, like me, should sing God’s praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise your Maker all your days.**

**Praise God for the grace and favor
shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing our Maker’s faithfulness.**

Prayer of Confession *followed by silent prayers of confession*

**Loving, righteous God, our hearts are defiled
with the wickedness you despise.
Forgetting your living Word, we cling to dead traditions.
Deceiving ourselves, we abandon your commandments.
We honor you with our lips while our hearts are far from you.
Cleanse our hearts from evil intentions;
cleanse our tongues from evil words
so that our worship may be pure and undefiled
and we may live with you in love for others. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison “Take Me to the Water” Spiritual
Choral Ensemble

Assurance of Pardon and Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading Mark 7:1-23 (selected)
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

New Testament Epistle Reading James 1:17-27

Sermon “Hands, Cups, Pots, and Bronze Kettles” 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 “Today We All Are Called To Be Disciples” KINGSFOLD/
Choral Ensemble K. Carmichael

Prayer of Dedication

***Affirmation of Faith** The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come
to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***Hymn 729 (verses 1 and 2)** “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

**Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.**