

Greeting and Announcements

Prelude

- **Call to Worship**

Come as you are to worship the Lord.

Let us bring our songs, our prayers, and our worries.

For the Lord is our shepherd, and we shall not want.

The Lord is our redeemer, and we shall be free.

Invocation

- **Sounds of Faith – #301 - Let Us Build a House**

- **Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, Holy Spirit, Ever Present One. We come to you with open hearts and hands, eager for your Spirit. You have called us here. You move within and between us now: stirring us to prayer and praise.

O, Holy One, we name aloud our penchant for replacing Divine guidance with frail, logical answers, and we are sorry. We name aloud our penchant for ignoring who you made us to be so that we can please earthly powers, and we are sorry.

God, have mercy on us.

We name aloud our penchant for substituting temporal treasures for life-giving experiences, and we are sorry.

Christ, have mercy on us.

We are in constant need of your Grace, O God. You have called us to be a church, a community of love and liberation. Help us to live into that calling more fully. Give us new breath and life for the work of building your kingdom here. Forgive us, O God.

Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.

Friends, in a world that is so dominated by transactional relationships it is difficult for us to imagine and even at times accept God's grace. In a time when we are so often taught that we need to earn everything, God's grace stands in stark contrast to human conceptions of worth and love. But God's grace was already here for us. Love welcomes all and God is Love, so God welcomes all, at all times. As the church we are called to be that community of God's love. May it be so.

- **Congregational Response - #568 - Amen**

Children's Message – Dot Loeffler

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: **Jeremiah 23:1-6** – Liturgist, Dot Loeffler

*Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD. The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness." The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God.***

Special Music – Brooks Parker

Scripture: **Ephesians 2:11-22**

*So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision"—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands - remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God. The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God.***

Meditation – “Living Our Faith”

- Sounds of Hope – #438 - Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
- Affirmation of Faith - (From a New Zealand Prayer Book)
You, O God, are almighty and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us. You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now. You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death. You are our God. We worship you.

Giving and Offertory

Pastoral Prayer 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.

- Sounds of Love - #394 - Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
- Benediction

Postlude

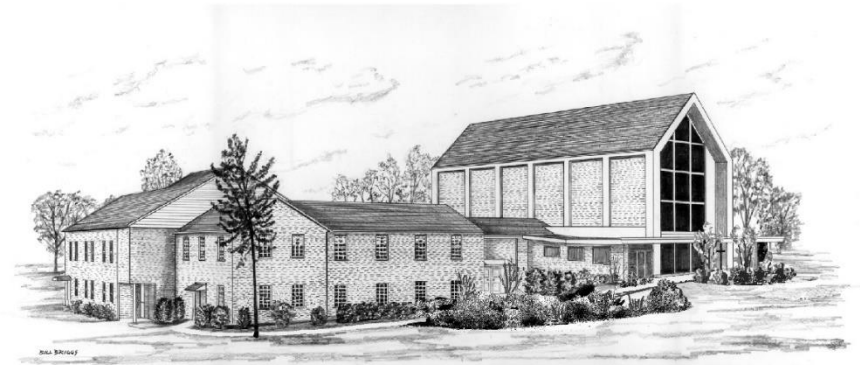
The (●) dot in the order of worship invites you to stand as you are able. Text in **bold** indicates unison reading.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September 14 – Dot New Circle, 10am **September 15** – Logos/Agape Fall Launch
September 19 – Baby Sprinkle (see insert) **September 26** – Bluegrass Sunday

Donelson Presbyterian Church

Sharing the Love of Christ



We warmly welcome all who have come to worship with us today. If you are a guest at Donelson Presbyterian Church, we encourage you to fill out a yellow visitor card which you will find in the pew.

September 12, 2021
16th Sunday After Pentecost

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***Please see an usher for information on: Childcare for children under 5 years of age, audio-hearing devices, or large print hymnals.

We'd like to welcome **Rev. Dr. Aaron Stauffer** as our guest speaker today. Aaron is the Louisville Institute Postdoctoral Fellow at Vanderbilt Divinity School, working primarily with the Wendland-Cook Program in Religion and Justice. He is a recent PhD graduate in social ethics at Union Theological Seminary in the city of New York. His dissertation is, "Organizing Lived Religious Practices for Power: Sacred Values in Broad-based Community Organizing".