

Silent Confession
Assurance of Pardon
Congregational Response (responsive)
We are washed in the waters of God's grace.
Thanks be to God.
The Peace (responsive)
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Life of the Church – Elizabeth Lauck – Peace Offering

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

Anthem *God Has Chosen Me* Bernadette Farrell
✦ Doxology (sung)
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia,
alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known;
Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**
✦ Prayer of Dedication

HEARING THE WORD

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Congregational Hymn (sung seated) Hymn 729 (vs. 1,2)
Children's Message
Congregational Hymn (sung seated) Hymn 729 (vs. 3,4)

SCRIPTURE READINGS Proverbs 3: 1-8 OT (p. 553)
John 2: 1-11 NT (p. 87)

SERMON *Christian Maturity* Sarah L. Hill

A TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION [A time to reflect upon the implications of scripture and sermon for your life.]

✦ HYMN 684 *Faith Begins by Letting Go*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [An expression of our common hope and purpose.]

Affirmation in Words (unison)

from the *Confession of 1967* [9.15]

We acknowledge that God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of human minds. We ascribe to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But in Jesus Christ, God reveals love by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful people. The power of God's love in Christ transforms the world and disclosed that the Redeemer is

the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

Affirmation in Song (sung through twice) *Gloria, Gloria*
***Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

✦ HYMN 755 *Alleluia! Laud and Blessing*

✦ BLESSING IN WORD [A departing blessing]

✦ CHORAL RESPONSE *A Blessing* Martin Shaw

BLESSING IN MUSIC [As formal worship concludes, instrumental music is provided. During the playing of the music you are encouraged to greet one another, sharing the peace of Christ, or to remain seated and allow the music to aid you in fashioning some final prayers.]

If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee J. S. Bach

✦ You may stand in body or spirit

**** If you are carrying a cell phone or some other electronic device, please turn it off before worship begins. ****

All are invited to attend Coffee & Lemonade Fellowship in Brady Chapel.

Please ask an Usher for assistance with hearing devices & large print bulletins

Music Notes:

Choir Music: The **choral call to worship**, evoking verses from Proverbs 2, is from a moving hymn by the great writer and worship scholar, Ruth Duck (b. 1947), who wrote it for the 1994 interfaith gathering known as 'Re-imagining.' The tune ("Madeleine") was composed by the American church musician, Donna Kasbohm (b. 1933) to be used with this text at the 1994 gathering. The choir's text:

Come and seek the words of wisdom, she who danced when earth was new.

Follow closely what she teaches, for her words are right and true.

Wisdom clears the path to justice, showing us what love must do.

Sister wisdom, come assist us; nurture all who seek rebirth.

Spirit-guide and close companion, bring to light our sacred worth.

Free us to become your people, holy friends of God and earth.

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The **anthem** is a motivational work by Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957), a leading figure in the UK (and worldwide) in the practice of worship and liturgy. The text:

God has chosen me to bring good news to the poor; to bring new sight to those searching for light.

God has chosen me to set alight a new fire; to bring to birth a new kingdom on earth.

God is calling me in all whose cry is unheard; to raise up the voice with no power or choice,

And to tell the world that God's kingdom is near, to remove oppression and break down fear.

Yes, God's time is near.

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The closing **choral response**, with text taken from a number of different passages in the Epistles, is a composition of Martin Shaw (1875-1958), English composer/conductor and editor of several hymnals. The choir's text:

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good;

render to no man evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak;

help the afflicted; honor all men. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the

power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father,

the Son, and the Holy Ghost be upon you and remain with you forever.

Congregational Hymns: The text of "**Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**" was written by the Scottish pastor and (prolific) poet, Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908). The tune ("St. Denio") is a Welsh folk melody, adapted as a hymn by the Welsh minister and musician, John Roberts (1822-1877) in his collection *Caniadau y Cyssegr* [*Hymns of the Sanctuary*], published in 1839. The choir's descants are by Lois Fyfe and Katherine Davis. At the children's time we sing "**Lord, I Want to Be a Christian,**" a well-loved African American spiritual. "**Faith Begins by Letting Go**" is an extraordinary text by Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944), Episcopal priest, theologian, scholar, longtime Executive Director of The Hymn Society in the U. S. and Canada, and one of the most respected hymn writers of our time. We sing his words to the tune "Lux Prima," composed in 1872 by the French composer Charles Gounod (1818-1893) for an English hymn during a period of exile in England during the Franco-Prussian war. The text of "**Alleluia! Laud and Blessing**" is one of many psalm paraphrases by the gifted hymn writer, Michael Morgan (b. 1948), and incorporates Psalms 111 and 112. The tune ("Weisse Flagen") is thought to be a German folk melody which evolved into hymn use in the eighteenth century.

Organ Music: The **prelude** and **postlude**, by two great German organists/composers, are settings of a well-known hymn by the 17th-century German poet/musician, Georg Neumark (see Hymn 816). The **prelude** is by Helmut Walcha (1907-1991), who is known for his recordings of the complete organ works of Bach. The **postlude** is by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-17507).

Announcements & Opportunities

Assisting with worship leadership this morning is Cynthia Hintze.

The **flowers** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ralph and Edith Lackey by Vern, Cheryl, Page, Holly, Isaac, and Gabe Fairchilds.

Community Table Desserts: **September 25** is Lexington Presbyterian's day to provide desserts for The Community Table. We are preparing S'mores bars. If you are able to prepare one or two, please contact Mary Beth Baker (mbbaker35@yahoo.com or 463-9563). Desserts may be left in Brady kitchenette by noon on Monday or delivered directly to The Community Table 2- 5:30pm.

House Church: please, sign up **No Later Than Sunday, September 24th** in the note book in the foyer near Brady Chapel or contact Pat Jones via email at prjones.lex@gmail.com.



October Flowers: Fall is a great opportunity to provide a beautiful flower arrangement for our sanctuary. If you'd like to provide, we have openings on the following Sundays:

October 1st, October 8th, October 15th and October 29th

Peace and Global Witness Offering - **October 1st:** Each year we collect a special offering to promote the peace of Christ in our community and across the world. The Outreach Committee has decided to use the local portion (25%) to support Boxerwood Gardens and Nature Center and CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates). The remaining balance will be used by PCUSA to support peace and reconciliation missions at the mid-council level (25%) and abroad (50%).

Thantastic Thursdays - Coming Soon! On **Oct. 12th**, we will begin with **OktoberFest**. Cindy Irby and Skip Hess will join forces to bring you all the Bavarian favorites including spaetzli and stroganoff and let's don't forget Skip's fabulous Black Forest Cake. The price will remain \$6/person, maximum of \$16/family.

Community Table Volunteers: **Thank you** to Becky Merchant for spending so much of her time this past year recruiting people to help at the Community Table. Beginning in October Lori Inman will lead the volunteer effort for our church. Volunteers are needed at the Community Table, **Monday, October 9th**. Servers (6), 5:30 - 7:00 and clean-up crew (6) 7:00-8:30. Sign up on the sheet in Murray Hall, or call Lori Inman at 615-585-4828 or email: llwjpi@hotmail.com.

Hurricane Harvey and Irma/Atlantic Hurricanes:

Please note: Do not try to send unsolicited items. Money is the most useful thing to provide at this time. With money, organizations can use their own logistic channels to purchase and provide needed items directly to people and locations that need it most. To donate to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance/Church World Services relief efforts associated Hurricanes Harvey and Irma/Atlantic Hurricanes: checks can be made out to the church with the designation for Irma/Atlantic Hurricanes or Harvey in the memo line.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUN (9/24)	8:45	Informal Worship
	9:15	Youth Choir
	9:45	Sunday School
	11:00	Regular Worship
	12:00	Bucket Assembly
	5:00	LTT
	6:00	Youth Group
	7:00	Lam Handbells
MON (9/25)		<i>Community Table Dessert Day</i>
	9:30	Prayer Shawl Ministry
TUES (9/26)	10:00	Lectio Divina
WEDS (9/27)		<i>Newsletter Assembly Day</i>
	4:30	Administrative Council
THURS (9/28)	5:00	Bible Study in Brady Chapel
	7:30	Adult Choir
SUN (10/1)		<i>Peace and Global Witness Offering Today</i>
	8:45	Informal Worship
	9:15	Youth Choir
	9:45	Sunday School
	11:00	Regular Worship
	5:00	Wholeness and Healing Service
	5:00	LTT
	7:00	Lam Handbells

RARA Pantry Item of the month (Sept): Canned meat
Item of the month (Oct): Whole Grain Cereal



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Sermon audio now available for each sermon on our website

Following Time with the Children, those in Kindergarten through third grade will be excused to Enrichment. For children ages 3-12, there are folders in the foyer near the elevator with color sheets, puzzles and related worship materials, as well as children's Bibles and books.

The nursery will be available from **8:30am** (for Early Worship attendees) until **12:15pm** - after the final worship service.

Lexington Presbyterian Church

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SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

24 September 2017

11:00 AM

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee
Helmut Walcha

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Proverbs 2: 6-10a

For the Lord gives wisdom; from God's mouth come knowledge and understanding;

***God stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
God is a shield to those who walk blamelessly,***

Guarding the paths of justice and preserving the way of the faithful.

Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; for wisdom will come into your heart.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

WELCOME

PRAYER FOR TODAY

✦ HYMN 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

A TIME OF CONFESSION

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God our redeemer, we confess that our lives do not reflect your glory. We have been fickle and unfaithful, but your steadfast love never fails. We try to save the best for ourselves, but you freely pour out your gifts for all. Forgive us, God of grace. Empower us by your Holy Spirit to be faithful followers of your way and use our gifts for the common good.