

First Presbyterian Church – Lake Charles

20th Sunday after Pentecost – October 18, 2020

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

+ *Rejoice, the Lord is King*

155 (Presbyterian Hymnal)

“Rejoice in the LORD always; again I will say, rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4)

+ CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Psalm 106

Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord, or declare all his praise?

We give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever.

Happy are those who observe justice; who do justice at all times.

We give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever.

Remember me, O Lord; Help me, that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones; rejoice in the gladness of your nation, and glory in your heritage of faith.

We give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever.

+ *Forever*

Lyrics on Screen

+ **Prayer of Adoration:** We rejoice, O Lord, because you have drawn us to this place... this place of quiet rest where sin will not molest; this place of full release where we will find joy and peace. We give thanks that you have brought us to a place of comfort sweet where our Savior we will meet... not merely a place of ‘sticks and stones,’ but that place in our souls where we may draw ‘near to the heart of you, O God.’ By the power of your Spirit within us, we lift up our hearts... we lift up our voices... again we say, REJOICE! Amen.

Call to Confession and Prayer

Holy God, you are the Lord our God, who, as you did for the ancient Israelites, brings us out of lands of oppression and suffering, out of the house of bondage to fear and doubt.

And yet, like them, our trust in you is fragile, easily crushed by our bent toward indifference... the dismissal of your faithfulness as a result of our forgetfulness. Our trust in you is far too fragile, easily broken by the slightest pause—an answer to prayer not instantly given, a request for peace not immediately felt. Our trust is fragile, easily displaced by gods of our own making— the god of self-sufficiency, chased at any cost; the god of illusion, pursued in any form. Lord, have mercy on us, as you have had with wandering followers throughout the ages. Hear now our confession of those ‘idols’ that we wish you to take from us...

Friends, believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ, the intercessor and Savior for our sin, we are forgiven! Amen!

Prayer of Illumination: Holy Spirit of God, shine your light upon this Word and into our hearts that we may be enlightened with fresh understanding. As we come to better know what is written in this ‘Book of Life,’ may we also know that our names are written in the ‘Book of Life.’ Amen.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Message

“Phil-up # 4: Christ – Reasons to Rejoice”

Rev. Chan Willis

+ We Believe...

from *“The Westminster Larger Catechism”*

“The duties required in the First Commandment are:

**The knowing and acknowledging of God to be the only true God, and our God;
and to worship and glorify him accordingly; by thinking, meditating, remembering,
highly esteeming, honoring, adoring, choosing, loving, desiring, fearing of him;
Believing him; trusting, hoping, delighting, rejoicing in him; being zealous for him;
Calling upon him, giving all praise and thanks, and yielding all obedience and submission
to him with our whole being; being careful in all things to please him,
and sorrowful when in anything he is offended; and walking humbly with him.”**

Dedication of Our Offerings

+ Doxology

592 (PH)

Prayer of Dedication: Creator God, you are our provider. We offer all that we have and all that we are to you, because we belong to you. Bless these gifts, and empower us, your church, that through the work of your Spirit we may be a refuge for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the storm, and a shade from the heat. Through Christ, our shield and our stronghold. Amen.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus (verses 1 and 3)

403 (PH)

Sharing of Prayer Concerns and “The Lord’s Prayer”

Hymnal, p. 16

+ Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

145 (PH)

+ Charge and Benediction

Beloved, may the Spirit guide us to that which is *true*... **that we may be set free;**
that which is *honorable*... **that we may rise above ourselves;**
that which is *just*... **that we may stand in the breach for another;**
that which is *pure*... **that we may live with integrity;**
that which is *pleasing*... **that we may look beyond ourselves;**
that which is *commendable*... **that we may seek to do God’s will;**
that which is *excellent and worthy of praise*,
that we may praise the name of the Lord forever!

+ Postlude

Rev. Chandler M. Willis, Pastor John Hood, Worship Leader
Samantha Holland, Accompanist Emily Lognion, Song Leader
Bam Arceneaux, Percussionist/A-V
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