

September 17, 2023      Morning Worship      10:30 a.m.  
16th Sunday after Pentecost  
Slackwood Presbyterian Church

## GATHER TO WORSHIP

*As a consideration to all who seek to worship this morning, please turn off or mute cell phones and other electronic devices.*

Welcome & Announcements

## OUR APPROACH TO GOD

Call to Worship

Leader: Disciples and doubters, faithful and feckless,

**People: we are God's, who welcomes us all.**

Leader: Followers and those who lag behind, open-hearted and close-minded,

**People: we are the Lord's, who is always patient with us.**

Leader: Reconcilers and rabble-rousers, foolish and fearless,

**People: we are the Spirit's, who encourages us in every moment.**

**All: Let us find our rest in God.**

\*Hymn #435 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" IN BABILONE

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

**We could have mercy, Compassion's heart, but we judge others by those standards we cannot even meet. We could welcome all around us as sisters and brothers, but hold them at contempt's length away from us. We could have patience with family and friends, but tap our feet and drum our fingers until they do what we want.**

**In your forgiveness, Tender God, you wipe the board clean of all our poor accounting. You don't deal off the bottom of the deck to us, but turn up the ace of grace for us. You gather up all our foolishness and hurl it beyond the edge of the universe, so the healing you intend for us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, will take place. (*Moment of silent prayer*). Amen**

\*Words of Assurance

\*Gloria Patri (#581)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

*(Following the time of confession, young people ages 3 to 10 may leave for a time of lesson and activity.)*

## HEARING OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading – Psalm 103:1-12

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem      "Ubi Caritas"      Victor Johnson

*"Where grace and love are, there God is."*

Second Scripture Reading – Matthew 18:21-35

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon      "Pay It Forward"      Rev. David Bowman

\*Affirmation of Faith (*from Book of Common Worship*)

**We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

\*Hymn #753

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

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.**

Call for Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology (#606)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn #445 "God How Can We Forgive"

LEONI

\*Charge and Benediction

### **DEPART TO SERVE**

\*Those who are able may stand.

**Welcome** to everyone who is worshipping this morning. If you are visiting, we hope you will feel very welcome and you will stay for a time of refreshments and fellowship.

**Christ's Ministers in the World:** All members of the church

**Interim Pastor:** The Rev. David Bowman

**Director of Music:** Dr. Shelley Sanders Zuckerman

**Director of Family Ministries:** Starr Alleyne

**Liturgists:** Kate Moore & Emma Moore

**Pastor Bowman's contact information:**

Email: dfbsbv@gmail.com or Telephone: 732.547.3480

The Scripture Reading for next Sunday, September 24 is Exodus 16:2-15.

The **flowers on the chancel** are given in loving memory of Bill Ward by Carol Ward.

### **Announcements**

The **Adult Forum** meets via Zoom each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. The link is in the Saturday announcements email.

The **choir** rehearses each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

The **youth group** meets at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday.

The **Board of Deacons** will meet following worship this morning.

The **session** will meet on Wednesday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m.

The **Bible Study group** will meet on Thursday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m.

**Those people and places remembered in the prayers of the people last week are:** Aaron & Karla, Donna, Julie, Ben, Carrie, Barbara, Sharon, Tina, Mike, Brooke, JD, Jeannine, Jill, Ebbie, Laura, Judy, Nona, Erin, Trudy, Greg, Arlene, Marilyn, Mylan, Mary Beth, Linda, Harold, Pintella family, Carter family, Bray family, Andrews family, Isabella, Liz, Fred & Janet, Maui, East Palestine, those impacted by nature or violence, people of Morocco.

**Confirmation Program:** Beginning in October, we will be offering a Confirmation Program for youth in grades 8-12. The program, led by Pastor David and Starr Alleyne will offer the youth an opportunity to explore what it means to be a part of the body of Christ and to be a faithful Christian. If you haven't already expressed interest in being part of the program, please let Pastor David know soon. Covenants for those participating should be turned into Pastor David by Sept. 17.

**National Giving Alliance** – Slackwood Church collects new garments, with tags still attached, to donate to NGA for people in need. A number of stores have good bargains on new clothes. Pick up an item or two and leave them in the box in Fellowship Hall.

**Trunk or Treat** – Saturday, October 28 – 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The Membership & Outreach Committee is hoping to have this event in the church parking lot as an outreach to children in the community. If you are willing to participate by bringing your car, and treats, opening the trunk (decorated if you want) and distribute treats to area children, please sign up on the sheet in fellowship hall. This can only be held if enough people agree to participate. Any questions – see Shirley Hafford or Beth Clark.

**Coming Events:**

Sunday, October 1 – World Communion Sunday

Joint service of worship with Grace congregation followed by a covered dish luncheon. Please indicate your intention to attend the luncheon on the sign-up sheet in fellowship hall.

On World Communion Sunday, the PCUSA receives the **Peace and Global Witness Offering**. Twenty-five percent of donations will stay within the Slackwood congregation for programs of peacemaking, twenty-five percent will be used by the Synod and 50% by the PCUSA. Over the years the church has worked to help stop human trafficking, prevent the exploitation of children, take action against structural racism as well as other areas of concern. Please give generously as we work toward peace for all.

Saturday, October 14 -Vote Forward – 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Gather with others to write letters to encourage people who are hesitant or reluctant to vote in November. A sample letter, envelope, and postage will be provided. Address an envelope to an individual and add a personal statement to the body of the letter on why you vote. Refreshments provided.

Sunday, October 15 – Congregational Survey Sunday

The Interim Committee will be requesting the input of all members of the Slackwood church family by use of a survey. Worship will be in fellowship hall, with the survey as part of the service. Please plan to attend and give your input to the committee.