

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO**

**October 25, 2020**

**GATHERING**

**PRESERVICE MUSIC SET**

*“Lord, Speak to Me”*

*“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”*

*“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”*

*“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”*

*“More Love to Thee, O Christ”*

*“Hallelujah”*

*“Lord, Make Us More Holy”*

*“Sweet Hour of Prayer”*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THANKSGIVING FOR THE SERVICE OF RALPH KALER**

**CHIMES**

**PRELUDE**

*“Rondeau”* (Mouret)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Psalm 90, Selected Verses

Lord, you have been our dwelling-place  
in all generations.

**Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

You turn us back to dust,  
and say, “Turn back, you mortals.”

**For a thousand years in your sight  
are like yesterday when it is past,  
or like a watch in the night.**

You sweep them away; they are like a dream,  
like grass that is renewed in the morning;

**in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;  
in the evening it fades and withers.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #63**

*"The Lord Is God"* (Glaser)

**\*PRAYER OF ADORATION**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, we confess that our lives are a continuous struggle to find and practice the right priorities. We can find time and energy for pursuits that provide no benefit, but we neglect you and your summons. We have failed to love you, our Creator and Redeemer, as we should, and we neglect and injure our neighbors.**

**Forgive us, we pray. By your Holy Spirit, continuously reset our priorities, so that you are first in our lives above anything else, and so that this reorientation shows with joy and commitment in our lives each day. Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

**THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES**

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS**

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**DUET**

*"To God Be the Glory"* (Doane/Lister)

Wayne Bevers and Bob Entrop

**\*READING FROM THE GOSPELS**

Matthew 22:34-46

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

“First Things First”

\*HYMN #627

“I Love You, Lord” (two times) (Klein)

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From *The Scots Confession* (1560)

**When the fullness of time came, God sent his Son, his eternal wisdom, the substance of his own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Spirit. And so was born the “just seed of David,” the “Angel of the great counsel of God,” the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person.**

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## MEDITATION ON THE STEWARDSHIP OF TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. Ephesians 1:3-6

MUSICAL OFFERING

“I Love You, Lord” (Klein/Wagner)

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

**Saving God, in Christ Jesus you have redeemed us from ourselves, from lives of hopelessness and despair. You have adopted us as your beloved children and called us into new lives of overflowing love for you and for our neighbors. You have transferred us from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light.**

**Our words are not enough; accept our hearts, we pray. Pour over us your Holy Spirit so that we may be immersed in your peace, strength, and hope. Make us totally yours, so that we may love you with all our heart, soul, and mind, through Christ our only hope. Amen.**

## OUR LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,  
holy is your name;  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## SENDING

**\*CLOSING HYMN #62**      *“Love the Lord Your God”* (2 times) (Strathdee)

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**\*POSTLUDE**      *“I Love to Tell the Story”*

\*Please stand if you are able where asterisks are printed.

Words in **bold print** are spoken by the congregation.