

ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday, October 16, 2022 • 10:00 AM



PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Be near us, O God, as we begin to worship. Sharpen our focus, that our attention may center more on You than ourselves. Prepare our hearts that we may perceive and respond to your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRELUDE

Linda Clugston, Organ

INTROIT: "Simple Gifts" – arr. Anna Laura Page

Chancel Bell Choir

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Neil Trainer

CALL TO WORSHIP

Greg Terman

One: Let us join our voices to praise the spotless Lamb, Jesus Christ, who has redeemed us from sin and death.

All: **We, whom he has redeemed, will sing praises and shout for joy!**

One: Let us praise him by saying:

All: **Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise! To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb we give worship now and forever and ever. Amen.**

HYMN #151, v. 1, 2 & 4: "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Emily Mitchell

Our Lord and Redeemer: You are always faithful in your love, but we are often shortsighted and forgetful. We fail to remember that our worship of You is to be at the center of our lives, not just a part of our lives. We take for granted the gift of fellowship with others who love You. We discount the importance of growing in Christ's likeness. And we neglect our responsibilities of serving Your people and of sharing Your love with those who are spiritually lost and hurting.

Forgive us, O Lord, and help us both to remember and receive anew Your mercy as we silently confess our sin to You. *(silence for reflection)*

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

PASSING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

DOXOLOGY

BLESSING OF CHILDREN AND DISMISSAL TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Emily Mitchell

OFFERTORY MUSIC: "Beautiful Savior" – arr. Matthew Compton

Chancel Bell Choir

SCRIPTURE PRESENTATION: Ephesians 3:1–13

Greg Terman

SERMON: "A Christ-Centered Life"

Neil Trainer

SONG OF RESPONSE: "Have Thine Own Way, Lord!"

PASTORAL PRAYER

Linda Erickson

SONG OF SENDING: "Living for Jesus"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Linda Clugston, Organ

Trunk or Treat is Coming!

// Monday, October 31 from 6 to 8 pm in our parking lot

Volunteers are needed. Sign up in the lobby or speak with [Carol Jean Chandler](#) if you can help!



Below is a repeat from the Stories of Faith column from the Friday, August 19th email.

Spreading the Gospel

// by Cheryl Minnig

Some years ago, I joined the Calvin group that reviews Bible study answers for *Prisoners for Christ*. At first, I had no idea what this would involve. Every week I receive a set of Bible studies answers from inmates. My job is to review the answers; I don't "grade" them, but I try to encourage the inmates doing these Bible studies, pointing them to Christ. It can be quite a challenge to decipher poor handwriting, grammar, and spelling, but the bigger challenge is in coming up with positive, encouraging responses (especially, to questionable answers!) For this, I've needed constant guidance by the Holy Spirit. Through prayer and His inspiration, I know that my responses are making a difference to the prisoners doing these studies.

Many inmates believe God can forgive them, but they have trouble forgiving themselves or being forgiven by their family, friends, and even other prisoners for their offenses. Through their answers, and over the years of reviewing these studies, I've gotten to know some of them even though I

have never met them in person. Some inmates are "lifers" — others are hoping for a reprieve, while still others may have accepted their circumstances. Some give answers that they think I want to read. These are all heartbreaking in their own way. They want — and deserve — real connection with other people. But it can be very difficult to relate to the kind of lives they have led.

I've lived a very sheltered, comfortable life. I was raised in a middle-class home surrounded by loving, Christian family, friends, co-workers, and classmates. My desire is to find the right words or phrases to convince these men and women that God *does* love them and can use them where they are. They need not be — as a devotional I read phrased it — "defeated by the wrong, hurtful choices they've made in the past." Christ died for them.

As one of my students wrote, "I'm 300 pounds, full-bearded and covered in tattoos. When I stand up to speak [spreading the Gospel], they listen." This is my hope and my goal: that some of his listeners *will* listen and will turn their lives around. Through these Bible studies, and through my work ministering to the students as I read and respond to their answers, seeds have been planted for each student to grow in Christ Jesus. And every student whose life I may influence, may in turn influence others. May the God of the harvest bring forth fruit for His kingdom through *Prisoners for Christ* and these Bible studies!

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Happy Birthday!

- Linda Lord..... Oct. 21
- Grmawit Yemane Oct. 22
- Laurel Baker..... Oct. 23
- Russell Janacek Oct. 23
- Jan Wilkins Oct. 23
- Roberta Gow..... Oct. 25
- Judy Runions Green..... Oct. 27



Upcoming Events

- Wow Group, 2 pm..... Oct. 17
- LIFE Group, 6:30 pm..... Oct. 17
- Ladies' Lunch, 11:30 am
at *The Potlatch Bistro*
in Edmonds..... Oct. 18
- Zoom Men's Bible
Study, 7:30 am..... Oct. 19
- Open Hours, 10 am Oct. 19
- Prayer Zoom, 12 pm Oct. 19
- Young Adults Alpha Group
meets at the Bowermans'
house, 6:30 pm..... Oct. 19
- Women's Study, 7 pm Oct. 19
- No Homeless Kids Fall*
Luncheon (Vision House
fundraiser) Oct. 25