

OAK HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 30, 2018 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time 10:30 a.m.

TIME OF QUIET PREPARATION

As you arrive in the sanctuary, please quiet and prepare yourself for worship. Relax your body; quiet the inner dialogue of your mind; be open and receptive to God's Spirit in our midst.

*those who are comfortable, please stand

GATHERING

PRELUDE *Where the Spirit of the Lord Is* Adams

*CALL TO WORSHIP *Inspired by Psalm 124*

One: If God had not been with us-

Many: **this world would have swallowed us up alive.**

One: The anger, corruption, violence, and greed-

Many: **would have overcome us, flooded us in, and drown us completely.**

One: If God had not been by our side-

Many: **If God had not held us through our struggles,**

One: known us in our trials,

Many: **embraced us in this mess,**

One: defended us against the enemy,

Many: **and loved us all the way,**

One: If God had not been with us-

Many: **we would have been lost to this world.**

One: But the Lord is here,

Many: **and the Lord is with us,**

One: and so we are strong,

Many: **and so we endure,**

One: and so we escape,

Many: **and so we survive,**

One: and so we hold on to hope,

Many: **and so we keep believing,**

One: and so we praise God.

Many: **Our help is in the name of the Lord.**

One: Our hope is in the name of our God!

*OPENING HYMN *How Great Thou Art*

No. 625

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

from the Book of Common Worship (2018)

Unison: Merciful God, in your gracious presence, we confess our sin and the sins of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*Cantor sings responses through first, followed by the congregation*)

“O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;

O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.” (repeat)

*SHARING THE PEACE

(Share the peace of Christ as you feel led, with a wave, a smile, a kind word, or a handshake.)

THE WORD

TIME FOR GROWING DISCIPLES

(At the conclusion of the Time for Growing Disciples, children ages birth to 3rd grade may stay in worship or go to the nursery.)

ANTHEM

Panis Angelicus

Franck

Paige Eckert, saxophone soloist

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22

(see insert)

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

James 3:13-4:10

(see insert)

SERMON

The Rev. Erin Counihan

MEDITATION IN MUSIC

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory

No. 307

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

(Please sign the Friendship Register found at the end of the pew. Complete information, including your email, and pass pad along to those worshiping with you.)

*Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Jesus Is All the World to Me

arr. Koerts

*Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

No. 607

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.*

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Richard Wiethop

CONGREGATIONAL JOYS AND CONCERNS AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

(Not merely announcements, but the activities of our life together that reflect our day-to-day responses to God's call for faithfulness, and your invitation to join in!)

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

No. 750

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

I Will Follow

Barbour

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Oak Hill Presbyterian Church



Sunday, September 30, 2018

**No More Sitting Out: Reviving Local Democracy in St. Louis City
MCU Public Meeting : Sunday, 10/7, at 3 p.m.**

Join with us at MCU as we continue our Break the Pipeline campaign by taking our annual public meeting right to the school districts we work with! Sunday, October 7 at 3 p.m. at Centennial Christian Church (DoC) located at 4950 Fountain Avenue 63113. We will challenge school administrators and police to continue eliminating the criminalization of our children's behavior.

This year we've also been busy drawing everyone into the conversation around political campaign finance, lobbyist spending power, and the creation of our legislative districts. We are challenging the notion that people's labor is worth less than \$8 an hour, and are moving forward the CLEAN and Raise Up Missouri campaigns in our congregations and our streets.

Together we can change the power structures that keep Missourians subject to the whims of lobbyists and other powerful special interests, but it takes all of us working together! Democracy is not a spectator sport! No more sitting out in 2018!

Visit www.MCUSTLouis.org for more on MCU's work and details about this event.

Oak Hill Presbyterian Church
Rev. Erin Counihan, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Alan Meyers, Parish Associate
Mrs. Susan Brown, Minister of Music
Ms. Annie Girresch, Director, AMEN St. Louis
Ms. Carole Adams, Secretary
Bulletin Deadline: Wednesday, 12:00 noon in writing.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK		
September 30, 2018		
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages
	10:30 a.m.	Service of Worship
	Following Worship	Time of Fellowship (and snacks)
	2:00 p.m.	Blessing of the Animals
Monday	7:45 – 8:00 a.m.	Prayer Pause
Tuesday	9:45 – 11:45 a.m.	MOMS Club of St. Louis in the Nursery
	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Foosball & Snacks @ the S.L.S. Building, 3227 Morgan Ford
Wednesday	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study in the Faith and Fellowship Room
	5:00 p.m.	Worship and Christian Education Committee Meeting in the Faith and Fellowship Room
	6:30 p.m.	Evangelism and Membership Committee Meeting in the Faith and Fellowship Room
	7:00 p.m.	Touchy Topics Book and Discussion Group at Hartford Coffee
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Circle 3 in the Theleos Room

We welcome you to worship at Oak Hill. We greet everyone in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and celebrate the gift of God's incarnate love through our worship and service.

We hope you will stay and join us for a time of fellowship after worship today. We'll gather downstairs for coffee and snacks!

For more information about what's happening at Oak Hill, don't forget to check out our website at www.oakhillpcusa.org.

Today's Liturgist is **Jillian Embrey**. Greeters are **Josh Smith and Jan Stanford**. Ushers are **Wendy Barrow, Brent Crittenden, Christine and Will Woodward**. Nursery Caregivers are **Sarah Gibson and Heather Macarthur**. The **Worship and Christian Education Committee** is hosting the time of fellowship in September.

As a church family, we shall be praying this morning and all week for the following members and friends. You may wish to contact them to indicate your interest and ask if they have any special prayer concerns.

Joe Bradshaw
Marge Kalhorn
Sheryl and Bob Ream

If you have a specific prayer request to share with the congregation, please fill out the yellow prayer request form in the pew and place it in the offering plate. For prayers and congregational support during the week, call Pastor Erin or the church office.



Join us for the Blessing of the Animals today at 2 p.m. Bring your favorite furry or finny or feathery friend. We'll have a brief worship service on the front steps and then celebrate with cookies for all! Tell your friends and neighbors! Oh, and as always, if you are bringing an animal that might frighten the pastor, please give her a heads up so your animal's blessing doesn't come with a scream! Thanks!

Foosball is Tuesday, October 2, at 6:30 p.m. It's a fun night of community with our neighborhood kids @ the S.L.S. Building, 3227 Morgan Ford. Please join us for pizza, snacks and fun! Please contact Dena Roper with any questions.

The Touchy Topics Book and Discussion Group will be discussing "Girls Burn Brighter" by Shobha Rao on Wednesday, October 3, at 7:30 p.m. at Hartford Coffee. All are welcome to join the conversation!

Circle 3 will meet on Thursday, October 4, at 10 a.m. in the Theleos Room. Please bring a sandwich – drink, chips and dessert will be provided.

Circle 3 Presbyterian Women have been busy making Christmas stockings and Care Bears which they plan to donate to Isaiah 58 Ministries. If you would like to help fill the stockings, they are asking for donations of small dolls, trucks, cars, Sinky toys, or any small item that would fit in the stocking. They will be accepting donations up to the end of October. Please give them to Jan Stanford or Carole Adams, or leave in the office.

It's going to be strictly potluck after the worship service next Sunday, October 7. Bring your favorite dish to share! The luncheon is hosted by the Evangelism and Membership Committee.



Join us next Sunday, October 7, as we celebrate **World Communion Sunday** and receive the Peace and Global Witness Offering. On this day we join with

Christians around the world as we break bread and share the cup in remembrance of Jesus. The Peace and Global Witness Offering encourages the church of our time to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our reconciling God's mission with those around the corner and around the world, as active peacemakers—at all times in all ways. Twenty-five percent of this offering remains with our congregation to build up peace in our community, 25% expands our witness throughout the region supporting ministries of peace and reconciliation in Presbyterian mid councils, and 50% supports the global witness to Christ's peace through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and the reconciliation work of Presbyterian World Mission. An envelope for this offering is enclosed with this bulletin.

Spring/Summer 2019 Mission Trip Information meeting

We are looking at week-long mission trip opportunities. We are looking at the option of doing either an inter-generational or adult trip. If you are interested, please join us on Sunday, October 7, for information and questions. We will meet in the Theleos Room following our fellowship luncheon. If you want to get an idea of where we want to go, look at the website: thecenterbaltimore.org. There is a requirement that people be a minimum of 7th graders. Please contact Dena or a Mission Committee member with questions.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22

7So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. ²On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, “What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.” ³Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. ⁴For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.” ⁵Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?” ⁶Esther said, “A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. ⁹Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, “Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.” And the king said, “Hang him on that.” ¹⁰So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

²⁰Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, ²¹enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, ²²as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Leader: This is the Word of the LORD;

People: thanks be to God!

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

James 3:13-4:10

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

⁴Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

⁴Adulterers! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you suppose that it is for nothing that the scripture says, “God yearns jealously for the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?

⁶But he gives all the more grace; therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Lament and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Leader: This is the Word of the LORD;

People: thanks be to God!