MAPLEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 19, 2023

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

-based on Psalm 92:1,2,4; 95:1-3; 100:2-4

It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High,

to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. For you make us glad by your deeds, O Lord; we sing for joy at the works of your hands.

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;

give thanks to God and praise his name.

HYMN #32 I Sing the Mighty Power of God

EXPRESSIONS OF THANKSGIVING

RESPONSE #606 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

Merciful God, you call us to follow to turn away from our selfish interests, and to take up our cross and follow after you, even if the path is difficult to see, or is heading in a direction we would never have chosen for ourselves. Forgive us for being so quick to question and so hesitant to follow. Help us to see with the eyes of faith, rather than from our own limited point of view. Teach us to follow without fear, knowing that you are always with us, leading the way.

(silent prayer and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Whether we hear a voice from the heavens or a still small voice in our hearts, listen carefully for the love of God who speaks the truth to us about who we are. Believe and accept God's love, and live in God's freedom and peace.

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #247 Now the Green Blade Rises

SCRIPTURE READINGS Philippians 3:7-11 Mark 8:27-35

MESSAGE What God Wants to Know: Who Do You Say That I Am?

HYMN #726 Will You Come and Follow Me

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory now and forever. Amen.

HYMN #643 Now Thank We All Our God

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE