MAPLEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 7, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP—from Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

**Worship the Lord with gladness,
come into his presence with singing!**

Know that the Lord is God;
it is God who made us, and we belong to God.

**We are God's people,
and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.

**Give thanks to him,
and bless his name!**

HYMN #266   *Joy to the World*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

**We welcome the opportunity
to make a joyful noise before you, O God.
We come to worship and to praise you,
glad that we live in this country
filled with such diverse and beautiful
examples of your creation.
Yet, joyful noises are not easy for everyone to make,
because of the burdens they carry of their own making,
because of the burdens others have laid upon them,**
because of the strife that exists
between the diverse and beautiful people in your creation.
**Speak to us all, O God, in the stillness of this time
and remind us of Jesus' willingness
to take our burdens upon himself and to learn
from him;
to experience his gentleness and his steadfast
love for all,
and the reconciling power to heal all of our
conflicts.
Jesus also offers us *his* joy,
so that our joy might be complete.
Confident in these promises,
we offer this time of worship to you, O God,
praying that it may reflect our praise and
thanksgiving
for the gifts of creation
and for all that Jesus has done for us.**

HYMN   #515   *I Come with Joy*

OPENING OUR HEARTS TO GOD

Merciful God,
for the things we have done that we regret,

forgive us;

for the things we have failed to do that we regret,

forgive us;

for all the times we have acted without love,

forgive us;

for all the times we have reacted without thought,

forgive us;

for all the times we have withdrawn care,

forgive us;

For hurtful words said and helpful words unsaid,
for unfinished tasks
and unfulfilled hopes,

**God of all time,
forgive us and help us
to lay down our burden of regret.**

(time for silent prayers and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE—from Psalm 103:8-13

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding
in steadfast love.
He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who
fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #673   *Jesus, Light of Joy*

SCRIPTURE READINGS   Philippians 4:4-7 and
Nehemiah 8:9-12

MESSAGE   The Joy of the Lord Is Your Strength

HYMN #39   *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION
Come, all you who are loved by God! Christ invites all to trust in him and to dine at his table. Come to receive all the benefits and blessings of his atoning death, his life-giving resurrection, and his ascended lordship.

We come to the table not just as individuals but as a community. By sharing the bread and the cup, Christ makes us one with him and with each other.

Just as we are nourished by the food we eat, Christ nourishes us spiritually at this table with the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation.

At the Lord's Supper we look *back*, remembering the story of our salvation; we look *around*, seeing that we are together members of the body of Christ; we look *forward* to the great banquet in God's coming kingdom; and we look *within* to find our indwelling Lord, who promises to feed us by the Holy Spirit.

This is the joyful feast of the people of God! Let us give thanks:
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

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.

SONG #80   *You Shall Go out with Joy*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." John 20:21