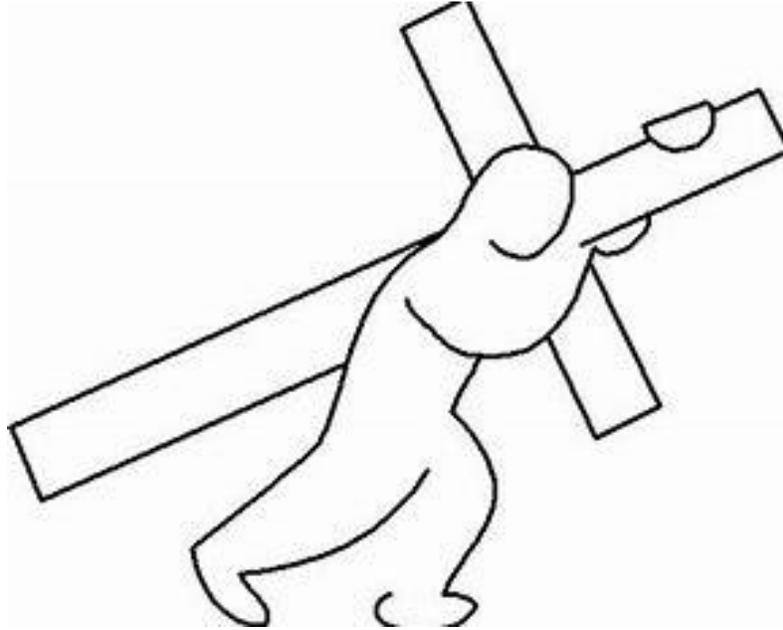


# TOWNLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Proper 18*  
*Thirteenth Sunday after*  
*Pentecost*  
*September 8, 2019*

829 Salem Road - Union, New Jersey

*Building Faith, Changing Lives, Sharing Christ*

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAY LEADER

## CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsively*)

LAY LEADER

O Lord, you have searched me you know me.

**You know when I sit down and when I rise.**

**You discern my thoughts from far away.**

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

**Wonderful are your works.**

**This I know very well.**

With all your children,

**I will give you thanks and praise!**

## OPENING PRAYER

LAY LEADER

Dear God, our creator,

you have fashioned us carefully with your hands.

We have come to offer you our worship and praise.

You know us better than we know ourselves,

and you alone comprehend the value  
of every creature and of all that exists.

Help us become all that we were created to be,

and help us love you  
and our neighbors with all that we are.

May we follow the way of Jesus,

not in the hope of what we might gain,  
but for all we might give  
in the spirit and joy of Christ,  
in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

**\*HYMN: #318 “In Christ There Is No East or West”**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

LAY LEADER

Trusting in the power of God  
not only to fashion the world,  
but to mend and refashion our hearts,  
let us say how it is with us.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)**

**ALL**

**Spirit of Jesus, walk among us  
as you walked with your followers long ago.  
Touch us, heal us, and send us to a world  
longing for your grace.  
Forgive us when we seek your blessings for ourselves,  
while hesitating to heed your call to serve others.  
Correct us when we dwell on what we lack,  
while neglecting to share what we have received.  
Free us, Spirit of Christ, to live and to love  
as generously as you have loved us.  
This we pray in your holy name. Amen..**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

**LAY LEADER**

God has forgiven us, freed us,  
and called us to serve with joy.  
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**ALL**

**Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen.**

**\*THE PEACE**

**LAY LEADER**

In the miraculous peace of Christ,  
may we share the miracle of peace and love with one another.  
The Peace of Christ be with you!  
**And also with you.**

**MUSICAL SELECTION: “Mediation From Thais” by Jules Massenet**

Thiago Wojtowicz Flutist

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**PASTOR**

**SCRIPTURE:**

**PASTOR**

Jeremiah 18:1–1; Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18; Philemon 1–2; Luke 14:25–33

**SERMON** *“Taking My Faith Seriously”*

**PASTOR**

**\*HYMN:** #223 “When I survey the Wonderous Cross”

**A TIME OF SHARING – JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PASTOR**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**PASTOR**

Gracious Creator,

we thank you that you give us to each other,  
for we discover new dimensions of your grace  
in the friction and comfort of life together.

In your body we learn what it means to be whole.

In your mercy, help us to set our fear aside.

Loosen our grip on what we know,

if it is keeping us from what you would teach us.

We pray for this community

and for your church all over the world.

You shaped us for service;

show us the good we may do—

for when you use us, we come alive.

We pray for those we have labeled useless:

for those whose youth and strength are gone,

for those whose convictions are strange to us,

for those who cannot find a place in the economies we trust.

And we pray for those whose prophetic lives

challenge and inspire us;

sustain such faithful witnesses.

We ask for your help as we begin this new school year.

Allow our students, educators, and support staff

To experience your presence in the many blessings you put before them.

Open their eyes to the new challenges

And exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Give them a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with their studies  
And courage to accept new opportunities.  
Let them experience your presence in their friends and colleagues.  
Inspire them to do their best this year  
And please keep them safe.

Lord, we do not know how to pray  
for peace in broken lands,  
for justice when the weak have no advocate,  
for life in the midst of despair;  
yet you are the God of Easter,  
the God of impossible life.  
Move in stubborn hearts and settled minds,  
give us courage beyond our imagining,  
that we might follow where you would lead.

Praying in the name of the One who taught us to pray, saying...**Our Father...**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**LAY LEADER**

All that we are points back to our Creator;  
all that we have is gift and trust.  
God will finish what God has begun;  
we have the privilege of taking part.  
With grateful hearts,  
let us bring our tithes and offerings  
to the God from whom they came.

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: HYMN #606**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**LAY LEADER**

Generous God, by your grace  
we are free to follow wherever Jesus leads,  
and to serve whomever you give us to serve.  
May the gifts that we offer here

help comfort those who mourn,  
feed those who are hungry,  
and liberate those who suffer.

Inspire your church to be united in joyful service  
to the beautiful world you have made. Amen.

**\*HYMN: #767 “Together We Serve”**

**CHARGE and BLESSING**

**PASTOR**

May the God whose hands have made us,  
whose grace has saved us,  
and whose Son walks with us,  
lead us forward to share joy with the world,  
in the name of the Creator, the Savior, and the Comforter. Amen.”

**POSTLUDE**

***WORSHIPPERS AND GUESTS ARE INVITED:***

*Join us following this worship service for snacks and fellowship.*

**FOOD BANK SUNDAY**

Townley’s Program Task Force is spearheading a **Food Bank Sunday**, where on each 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday they will receive donations of non-perishable food items to contribute to the Connecticut Farms Food Pantry. We are asking our members to support this initiative by giving one non-perishable food item (or \$1) per week.

Kindly drop off your items in the **Food Box** in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Merle Lyte
- 4 Howard Bryant
- 4 Janet Sangekar
- 18 Richard Corritore
- 22 Diane Smith
- 24 Kathy Kreie

**A Note from Our Treasurer: 9/1/2019**

We received \$1314 in pledge & plate and \$40  
Deacon Fund.  
*Janet Sangekar*

**“A Time for Prayer” - Mondays at 4:00 PM**

Fall Rummage Sale: Townley’s Fall Rummage Sale will be held on October 25 & 26, 2019. Please be sure to mark your calendars. More information will follow closer to the date. Thank you!