

TOWNLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



PROPER 20
Sixteenth Sunday after
Pentecost
September 20, 2020

829 Salem Road - Union, New Jersey

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAY LEADER

CALL TO WORSHIP

LAY LEADER

Whether we embrace God's call in our lives or try to avoid it,

**God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Whether we are long timers or latecomers in the life of faith,

**God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Whether our lives in Christ are comfortable or bring hardship,

**God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

We praise God's name forever and ever!

OPENING PRAYER

LAY LEADER

Generous God,

you come to us again and again,
no matter how late it is in the day or in our lives.

Calling to us, gathering us in,

you give us your good work to do,
daily bread, and boundless grace.

Increase in us a generous spirit

so that we may do your work with joy
alongside others whom you also love.

We celebrate your salvation not only in our lives,

but also, in the lives of other people,
even those we had not imagined.

would be included in the kingdom you are bringing.

Align us with your ways

and help us receive your gift of justice and mercy as good news.

In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Hymn #475 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

ALL

CALL TO CONFESSION

LAY LEADER

Because we do not always live our lives
in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ,
we confess before God and one another
our sins and shortcomings.
In repentance, let us turn toward God's grace and mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

ALL

**God of abundant goodness,
we confess that we want your grace for ourselves
but often wish punishment or exclusion on others.
We judge the efforts and motives of others
while ignoring the faults of our own.
Forgive us, we pray,
when we let jealousy overtake us.
Forgive us, we pray,
when we are petty even in the presence of your generosity.
Forgive us, we pray,
when we feel slighted by you.
May we ask once again for your mercy?
Will you help us to be more merciful toward one another?
We pray in the name of Christ Jesus,
by whose grace we are saved. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

LAY LEADER

God extends to us mercy beyond our deserving,
grace beyond our ability to earn it.
God has granted us the privilege of believing in Christ.
Therefore, we will live as grateful and forgiven people!
Thanks be to God!

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**

Renewed through the gifts of God's Spirit,
let us share our visions and dreams of peace
by exchanging signs of Christ's peace with one another.
The peace of Christ be with you!

Hymn # 471 "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"**ALL****PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION****PASTOR****SCRIPTURE:** Jonah 3:10–4:11, Philippians 1:21–30**PASTOR****SERMON:** "*Mercy, God's Higher Calling*"**PASTOR****A TIME OF SHARING – JOYS AND CONCERNS****PASTOR****PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER****PASTOR**

God of unending mercy and steadfast love,
we are grateful that you are slow to anger,
for there is much in this world that is wrong
and set against your purposes.
Overcome our many injustices with your justice;
overtake our lust for revenge with your great mercy.

We pray for nations locked in enmity
to be set free from old patterns
and to embrace a new way of relating.

We pray for people who wield economic power
to take notice of those whom you notice
and to have compassion for those who are vulnerable.
We pray for day laborers and the unemployed and the homeless.

Inspire us who have enough to share what we have,
not in measured and resentful amounts,
but gladly, abundantly,
so basic needs do not go unattended.

Gather up the first and the last,
the least and the greatest,

in the common work of your kingdom,
until there is no more first or last at all,
for all are one in your name.

Help us all to see not only your grace at work in the world,
but also your humor at work among us,
the holy laughter that heals us and helps us see ourselves rightly.
We thank you for the privilege of believing in Christ,
of living in Christ, and of living for Christ.
In all things, at all times,
we give thanks to you,
who never lets us go:

Praying as you taught us to pray:

**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.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

LAY LEADER

Whether we have much or only a little,
we can share our daily bread so that all will be fed.
As we have received,
so now we give,
in the vineyard of the Lord,
our tithes and offerings.

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

God of the harvest,
we are privileged to be counted among those whom you have called,
graced to have been given your work to do,
blessed to receive more than we will ever earn.
Accept, we pray, our thanksgivings and offerings,
and do what you choose
with what already belongs to you.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

BENEDICTION

PASTOR

HYMN #502 "Thy Holy Wings, O Savior"

ALL

**SEPTEMBER
BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Merle Lyte
- 4 Howard Bryant
- 4 Sangi Sangekar
- 18 Richard Corritore
- 21 Pastor Ron
- 22 Diane Smith
- 24 Kathy Kreie

"TIME FOR PRAYER"

6:00 PM on Wednesdays

Praying by teleconference. All may call in to pray and/or make prayer requests: Dial-in using your phone: 1 717-275-8940 Access code: 367 0530

A Note from Our Treasurer:

Please continue to **mail your weekly offerings** to the church office. **Bill Pay and other online banking options** should also be considered. Online contributions may be made through our church's website "Give Now" button:



Our church's Donation Page can also be reached using the Quick Response (QR) Code below. A QR Code is a two-dimensional, modular barcode that, when scanned by a smart phone (most phones use the camera to do this) will connect you to our Donation Page.

