

# Ken Mawr United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, October 10, 2021

## The Service of Worship

### **GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

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Preparation for Worship

“Wisdom and Grace”

*Teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to Your ways.*

*O, teach us to number our days with wisdom and grace...*

You've been our home and our dwelling our place in all generations, before the earth or the mountains were formed, Lord, You were God. *Refrain*

Now the span of our lives, it is made of sorrow and labor as the days pass away like the grass how soon we are gone. *Refrain*

Let the work of our hands bring you praise, set Your favor upon us.

O establish the work of our hands, may Your kingdom come! *Refrain*

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Welcome

Welcome to Ken Mawr United Presbyterian Church! Our society tends to value education, good grades, and intelligence. We like smart people. But James would counter, “It is smart to be good.” And the wise person lives a life that is good. To use the language of James, the world may even say, “It is good to be wise.” But James says, “It is wise to be good.” Jesus said “*Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves*” (Matthew 10:16, RSV). But how do we get this kind of wisdom? We get wisdom from heaven, as Christ came down from heaven. The truly wise person is one who prays and lives like Jesus. I've heard it said that we should pray to become less like us and more like Jesus. Jesus modeled for us the perfect kind of life, a life filled with the wisdom of good deeds, deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

-Pastor Karl

Call to Worship

Prayer of Adoration

### **GIVE PRAISE AND THANKS TO GOD**

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Hymn of Praise #48

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

*Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.*

*Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.*

*To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish, but nought changeth thee.*

*Great Father of Glory, pure Father of Light  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we would render, O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.  
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#### Prayer of Confession

**God of the gospel, the One who sends, the One who is sent and remains with his church, we declare our need for the wisdom that comes from above, pure, peace-loving, considerate, full of mercy and good fruit. We can be devious rather than straightforward, hypocritical rather than sincere, unforgiving rather than merciful, cruel rather than kind. Forgive the bitter jealousy that leads to quarreling, the selfish ambition that destroys those who are in the way, the ungoverned passions that lead to disorder and evil of every kind. Temper your justice with mercy for the sake of your obedient Son, Jesus our Peacemaker. Amen.**

#### Assurance of God's Forgiveness

#### Congregational Response

**All ye who are of tender heart, forgiving others take your part.  
Sing his praises, Alleluia! Ye, who long pain and sorrow bear,  
praise God and on him cast your care!  
O praise him! O praise him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him with humbleness!  
O praise him, Alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, three in One,  
O praise him! O praise him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
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#### Time with the Children (Kids Spell Love T-I-M-E)

#### Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

***...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.***

#### Prayer Response

***Lead us Lord, lead us in your righteousness; Make your way plain for us to see.  
Lead us Lord, lead us in your righteousness; Make your way plain for us to see.***  
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#### Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

#### **GOD'S WORD READ AND PROCLAIMED**

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Scripture

James 3:13-4:1-10

13 *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. 17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.*

1 *What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? 2 You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. 4 You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? 6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” 7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. (NIV)*

Sermon

“Grace for the Humble”

Responsive Reading: Where Wisdom Is Found (Job 28:12-15, 20-28)

Pastor: But where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell?

**People: No mortal comprehends its worth; it cannot be found in the land of the living.**

Pastor: The deep says, “It is not in me”; the sea says, “It is not with me.”

**People: It cannot be bought with the finest gold, nor can its price be weighed out in silver.**

Pastor: Where then does wisdom come from? Where does understanding dwell?

**People: It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing, concealed even from the birds in the sky.**

Pastor: Destruction and Death say, “Only a rumor of it has reached our ears.”

**People: God understands the way to it and he alone knows where it dwells,**

Pastor: For he views the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens.

**People: When he established the force of the wind and measured out the waters,**

Pastor: When he made a decree for the rain and a path for the thunderstorm,

**People: Then he looked at wisdom and appraised it; he confirmed it and tested it.**

Pastor: And he said to the human race, “The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom,

**People: And to shun evil is understanding.”**

**GO IN GOD’S NAME**

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Hymn

“The Perfect Wisdom of Our God”

*The perfect wisdom of our God, revealed in all the universe;  
All things created by His hand and held together at His command.*

*He knows the mysteries of the seas, the secrets of the stars are His;  
He guides the planets on their way and turns the earth through another day.*

*The matchless wisdom of His ways, that mark the path of righteousness;  
His word a lamp unto my feet, His Spirit teaching and guiding me.  
And oh, the mystery of the cross, that God should suffer for the lost  
So that the fool might shame the wise, and all the glory might go to Christ!*

*Oh grant me wisdom from above, to pray for peace and cling to love,  
And teach me humbly to receive the sun and rain of Your sovereignty.  
Each strand of sorrow has a place within this tapestry of grace;  
So through the trials I choose to say, "Your perfect will in Your perfect way."*

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Benediction

*Thank you for worshiping with us!*

