**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Congregation Cookout (Sunday, September 24):** The Congregation Cookout will take place immediately after church at Veteran’s Park (309 Academy Street). The church will provide hot dogs and hamburgers. The congregation can sign up to bring sides or desserts. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Youth games provided, but feel free to bring your own! See newsletter for more details.

**Women’s Study Gathering (Thursday, October 5):** Starting Thursday evenings at 7:00p.m. in October, Betty Stevens and Mary Beth Longcrier will hold a study series for women and any interested friends. They will study selections from *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. Amazon has the book in paperback for $9.99. For more information contact Betty or Mary Beth. This will be great fun!

**Food Collection:** Item for September: canned fruit.

**Prayer Group:** Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome!

**Elder of the Month – Gail Hood**

**WELCOME VISITORS**- Welcome! If you are visiting please fill out one of the green visitor’s cards from the pew and place it in offering plate at the entrance of the church. We are glad you are here! Hope to see you again soon!

**Contact Information**

**Pastor**: Rev. Dr. Ramy N. Marcos **Administrative Assistant**: Gretta Medina

**Email**: ramynmarcos@gmail.com  **Email**: ErwinPresChurch@gmail.com

**Phone**: 860-322-7683  **Phone**: 423-743-3431 (office)

**Office hours** **M-Th&Sun**: 8:00a.m.-4:00p.m. **M-Th:** 8:00a.m.-2:45p.m.



Erwin Presbyterian Church

105 N. Elm Ave., Erwin, TN 37650

September 17, 2023, 11:00AM

**Prelude** *The Steadfast Love of the Lord with Great Faithfulness* arr. Edith McNeill

Ethan Thomas, organist

**Welcome and Announcements** The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**Introit**  *We Have Come Into His House*  Green Hymnbook, #224

**\*Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 114)** Ellen Sewell

Leader: Sing to the Lord who lifts and carries us when we fall.

**All: We sing to the Lord who walks with us on all our journeys!**

Leader: Sing to the Lord who strengthens and empowers us when we are weak.

**All: We sing to the Lord who walks with us on all our journeys!**

Leader: Sing to the Lord who rescues and saves us when we pass through darkness.

**All: We sing to the Lord who walks with us on all our journeys!**

**\*Hymn**  *Lead on, O King Eternal* Red Hymnbook, #332

**Call to Confession** Ellen Sewell

Leader: Before we can hear God’s truth spoken in love, we must free ourselves from all that obstructs us from honestly acknowledging our wrongdoing. Let us examine our hearts and confess our sins to God.

**Prayer of Confession** Ellen Sewell

**All: God, you desire to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. But division and disagreement plague us. We approach each other in arrogance, judge and offend each other, and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in relationship, and be transformed through your steadfast love.**

*(Please take a moment of silent confession****)***

Leader: We pray in Jesus’ name

**All: Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon** Ellen Sewell

Leader: The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, redeemed and restored to God’s path of righteousness. Amen.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**  Red Hymnbook, #546

 **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, Amen**.

**\*Passing of the Peace**  The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

Leader: Jesus said, “My peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.” May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Please take a moment to greet one another and share the peace of Christ.

**First Scripture Reading-Exodus 14:1-4** Ellen Sewell

**14** Then the LORD said to Moses, 2 “Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. 3 Pharaoh will think, ‘The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.’ 4 And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord.” So the Israelites did this.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

**Anthem** *Prayer for Our Time*

**Prayer for Illumination** The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**Second Scripture Reading-Romans 14:1-12:**  The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**14** Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. **2** One person’s faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. **3** The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. **4** Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

**5** One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. **6** Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. **7** For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. **8** If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. **9** For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

**10** You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat. **11** It is written:

“‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord,

‘every knee will bow before me;

 every tongue will acknowledge God.’”

**12** So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon** *Christian Unity and Acceptance*The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**\*Declaration of Faith** Ellen Sewell

Leader: Let’s confess our faith.

**All:**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayer of the People**  The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**All: 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** Ellen Sewell

Leader: We are inspired to be generous by a generous God. We are inspired to give by the greatest of givers. In gratitude to God, let us present our tithes and offerings.

(*may the ushers move forward and collect the offering*)

**Offertory Music**

**\*Doxology** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*Red Hymnbook, #544

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host;**

**Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

**\*Prayer of Dedication** Gina Hudson

Leader: Holy God, bless these gifts for your good use. May these tokens of our gratitude be of service in blessing the poor, feeding the hungry, and clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive. Use these gifts to further Christ’s mission and ministry in a hurting world.

**All: Amen.**

**\*Hymn** *They’ll Know We Are Christians* Green Hymnbook, #429

**\*Benediction** The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**Benediction Response** *God Be With You ‘til We Meet Again*

**God be with you ‘til we meet again.**

**By His counsels guide uphold you.**

**With His sheep securely fold you.**

**God be with you ‘til we meet again.**

**Postlude** *Song of Joy* arr. Robert J. Hughes

*\*Responses with an asterisk indicate standing. Please stand, as you are able.*