

Erwin Presbyterian Church

105 N. Elm Ave., Erwin, TN 37650

October 15, 2023, 11:00 a.m.

**Prelude** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* arr. Russell Schulz-Widmar

Ethan Thomas, organist

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

**Introit**  *Morning Has Broken*  Red Hymnbook, #464

**\*Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 19)** Gail Hood

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God

**All: and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.**

Leader: There is no speech, nor are there words;

**All: their voice is not heard.**

Leader: Yet it goes out through all the earth

**All: and to the end of the world.**

**\*Hymn**  *Have Thine O Way, Lord!* Red Hymnal, #302

**Call to Confession (Based on Philippians 3)** Gail Hood

Leader: Whether you feel like you have a grasp on who you are or whether you are questioning your identity; whether you are new to this type of prayer or whether you’ve confessed a thousand times before; whether you feel confident in the flesh or whether you know your shortcomings all too well; God meets us where we are and invites us into this prayer.

**Prayer of Confession** Gail Hood

**All: Merciful God, we confess that our confidence is often misplaced. We put our confidence in our abilities rather than in your love. We put our confidence in our belongings rather than in your generosity. We put our confidence in ourselves rather than in you. Forgive us for our misgivings. Redirect us according to your Spirit and your will. Help us to follow your ways and find our freedom in your heavenly calling. Open us to new levels of trust and joy as we press on towards your goal.**

(*Please take a moment of silent confession)*

Leader: We pray in Jesus’ name

**All: Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon** Gail Hood

Leader: Friends, we have not already obtained the prize or reached the goal; but Christ has! And in Christ we are a new creation; we are made whole and we are called beloved.

**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 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-17** Gail Hood

20 And God spoke all these words: 2 “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 3 You shall have no other gods before me. 4 You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

7 You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. 8 Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

12 Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. 13 You shall not murder. 14 You shall not commit adultery. 15 You shall not steal. 16 You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. 17 You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

**People: Thanks be to God**

**Anthem** *In the Cross Alone I Glory*

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

**Second Scripture Reading- Philippians 3:4b-14**  The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

4b If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; 6as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

7But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.8What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ 9and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. 10I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

12Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.13Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

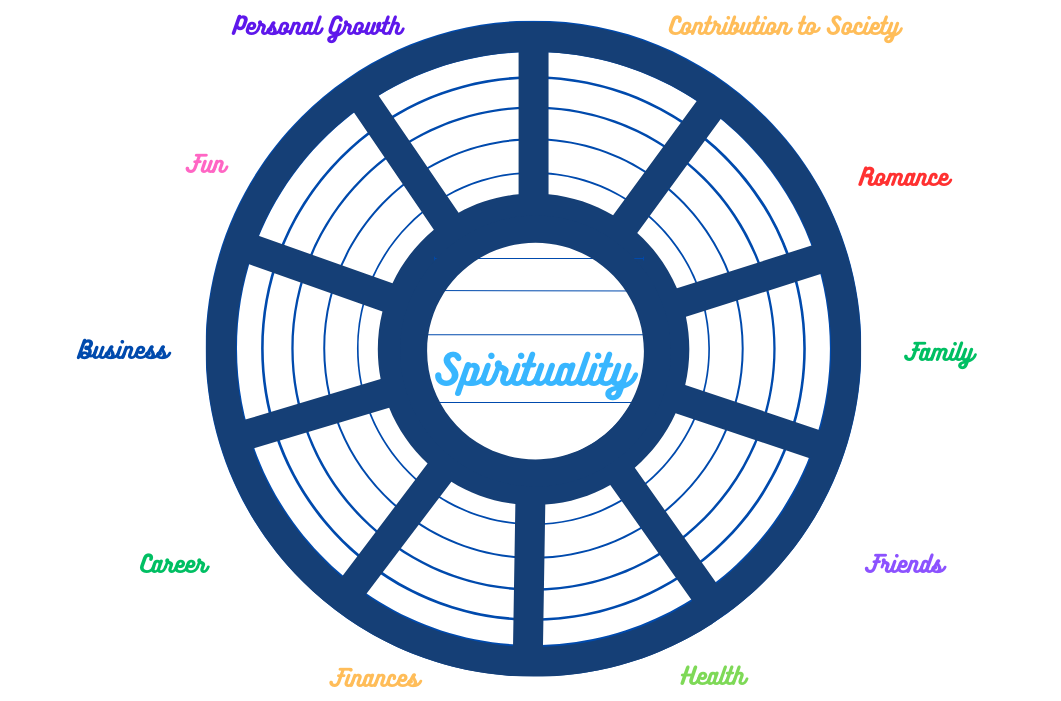
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon** *Life Assessment*  The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

*(See next page)*

**Introduction**



**First, Former Confidence (vv. 4b-6)**

**Second, Faith Righteousness (vv. 7-11)**

**Third, Press on toward the Goal (vv. 12-14)**

**Conclusion**

**\*Declaration of Faith (Nicene Creed)** Gail Hood

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** Gail Hood

Leader: God is generous beyond measure. With thanksgiving for God’s generosity in our lives, let us be generous as we offer ourselves and our resources in response to God’s Word given to us today.

(*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** Byron Beard

Leader: Sweet Savior, your Word is greater to us than gold, even great gold. May these gifts brought today be a gesture of our gratitude for the riches of your Word given to us. Multiply these gifts and make them like the drippings of the honeycomb to those in need.

**All: Amen.**

**\*Hymn** *I Know Whom I Have Believed* Green Hymnal, #527

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

**Benediction Response** *Shalom*

**Shalom to you now, Shalom, my friends.**

**May God’s full mercies Bless you, my friends.**

**In all your living, and through your loving,**

**Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.**

**Postlude** *Postlude on “Ein’ Feste Burg”* arr. Don Hustad

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

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Presbyterian Women’s Group (Thursday, October 12):** Please join us for our women’s circle in the fellowship hall. Katherine Bowen will be hostess. If you have any questions, please call Katherine. All women are welcome!

**Bring a Friend to Church, Potluck, Pumpkin Carving (Sunday, October 29):** Bring your friends, neighbors and/or relatives to church on October 29. CORE created this opportunity to open our doors even wider and encourage the community to come worship with us.  We want to welcome and get to know them. All are invited to stay afterwards for a delicious potluck luncheon provided by Congregational Care. Christian Ed is sponsoring the annual pumpkin carving. There will be plenty of pumpkins, carving tools, and decorations for use on the pumpkins.

**Installation of Rev. Dr. Ramy N. Marcos** **(Sunday, November 5):** Please join us for the formal installation of Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos in the sanctuary at 3:00 p.m. on November 5. This service will occur in place of the 11:00 a.m. worship service. We will host several teaching elders from the community and Holston Presbytery as well as hear from some distinguished professors. Our guest speaker is Rev. Dr. David Grafton. We will also host Rev. Dr. Stephen Davis. Communion will be served and the installation service will be followed by a reception with light refreshments. Please join us!

**Food Collection:** Item for October is stuffing mix.

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

**Elder of the Month –** Byron Beard

**Contact Information**

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