

Erwin Presbyterian Church

105 N. Elm Ave., Erwin, TN 37650

October 22, 2023, 11:00 a.m.

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

**Prelude** *Meditation on "Park Street”* arr. David H. Hegarty

Ethan Thomas, organist

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

**Introit**  *There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit*  Green Hymnbook, #391

**\*Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 99)** Denise Rose

Leader: Great and powerful is the God of all creation.

**All: Let us praise the Mighty One.**

Leader: The King loves justice, and established equity.

**All: Let us worship the Holy One.**

Leader: The Lord hears our cries and answers our calls.

**All: Let us celebrate the LORD among us.**

**\*Hymn**  *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* Red Hymnal, #399

**Call to Confession** Denise Rose

Leader: We are called to imitate Christ, but too often we emulate the lesser gods of our culture. We are called to be in the world, but not of it. Yet, we fail at making our discipleship that which is distinctive about us. Nonetheless, God is merciful and abounding in steadfast love. Therefore, we are confident in our coming before the Lord with our honest confession.

(*Let us pray*)

**Prayer of Confession** Denise Rose

**All: Lord, we have hatred in our hearts. We wish ill upon those we do not like and fail to recognize our own shortcomings. We are certain in our opinions rather than humble about our assumptions. We think the best of ourselves and the worst of others, despite your warning to tend to the log in our own eye, rather than the speck in our neighbor’s. We want to partition off our lives, offering you a portion of our loyalty, time and resources, when we are called to give our whole selves to you. Forgive our pettiness, our hard-heartedness and our stubbornness. Use our repentance as a means for the Spirit to work in us and remake us into a closer likeness of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.**

(*Please take a moment of silent confession)*

Leader: We pray in Jesus’ name

**All: Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon** Denise Rose

Leader: The Lord our God answers us and forgives us. The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Friends, believe the good news, through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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

Pastor: 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.**

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

**First Scripture Reading- Exodus 33:12-17** Denise Rose

**12**Moses said to the Lord, “You have been telling me, ‘Lead these people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, ‘I know you by name and you have found favor with me.’ **13**If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people.”  **14**The Lord replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

**15**Then Moses said to him, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. **16**How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?” **17**And the Lord said to Moses, “I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

**Anthem** *The Lord’s My Shepherd*

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

**Second Scripture Reading- 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**  The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**1**Paul, Silasand Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you.

**2**We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers.**3**We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

**4**For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you,**5**because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. **6**You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.**7**And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. **8**The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, **9**for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,**10**and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon** *Faith, Love, and Hope*  The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**Introduction**

**First, Work of Faith**

**Second, Labor of Love**

**Third, Endurance of Hope**

**Conclusion**

**\*Declaration of Faith (The Apostles’ Creed)** Denise Rose

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** Denise Rose

Leader: With gratitude for God’s faithfulness and with thanksgiving for all that we have received, let us bring our gifts to God.

(*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.** Denise Rose

Leader: O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, even as you use us, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, the Head of the church and the Lord of our lives. Amen.

**All: Amen.**

**\*Hymn** *Love Lifted Me* Green Hymnal, #508

**\*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 "England's Lane"* arr. Glenn Medlock

Ethan Thomas, organist

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

**Announcements**

**U.S. Congregational Vitality Survey (Tuesday, October 24, at 6 p.m.):** We will have a Zoom consultation meeting with the researcher who analyzed our survey. The congregation is invited to participate to discuss the results.

**Women’s Study Gathering (Thursday, October 19, at 7 p.m.)**: Betty Stevens and Mary Beth Longcrier are holding a study series for women and any interested friends. They study selections from *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis.

**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.

**Candy Needed:** CORE will give out candy and cross necklaces on October 30 at Erwin’s downtown trick-or-treating. Please donate individually-wrapped candy by leaving it in the box in the narthex.

**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

**Announcements continued**

**Administrative Assistant**: We have an opening for part-time position (20 hour/week) Administrative Assistant with excellent computer skills! If you or someone you know has an interest in applying, please contact Ellen Sewell, Smsdd57@gmail.com or call/text 423 220-9169 to express interest or for more information!

**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!

**Contact Information**

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

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

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