

**Erwin Presbyterian Church**

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost \* November 19, 2023 \* 11:00 a.m.

105 N. Elm Ave., Erwin, TN 37650 \* 423-743-3431\* erwinpresbyterianchurch.com

**Prelude** *"Nun Danket"* arr. Dorothy Wells

Ethan Thomas, organist

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

**Introit** *All Creatures of Our God and King* Green Hymnbook #63

**\*Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 123)** Katherine Bowen

Leader: We lift up our eyes to you,   
          to you who are enthroned in the heavens!

**All: As the eyes of servants   
          look to the hand of their master,   
     as the eyes of a maid   
          to the hand of her mistress,   
     so our eyes look to the LORD our God,   
          until he has mercy upon us.**

**\*Hymn**  *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* Green Hymnbook, #682

**Call to Confession** Katherine Bowen

Leader: Lord, we know that our sins are too heavy for us to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. But we also know that you can lift that weight from us and transform our lives. So we lift our prayer of confession to you:

(*Let us pray*)

**Prayer of Confession** Katherine Bowen

**All: Merciful God, we confess that once again, we have done what is evil in your sight. We’ve made mistakes. We’ve made missteps. We have hurt people, by action and inaction. We have wounded creation, by action and inaction. We have chosen our ways over yours, by action and inaction. And if the sum total of what we have done and what we have not done adds up to evil in your sight, then in your sight we ask you to turn us towards goodness. Forgive our past, and shape our future that we might build your kingdom here.**

(*Please take a moment of silent confession)*

Leader: we pray all these things in the name ofour savior, Jesus Christ.

**All: Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon** Katherine Bowen

Leader: Hear the good news! Our God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. We are forgiven, rescued and redeemed.

**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- Psalm 90:1-6, 12** Katherine Bowen

1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
    throughout all generations.  
**2**Before the mountains were born  
    or you brought forth the whole world,  
    from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

**3**You turn people back to dust,  
    saying, “Return to dust, you mortals.”  
**4**A thousand years in your sight  
    are like a day that has just gone by,  
    or like a watch in the night.  
**5**Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—  
    they are like the new grass of the morning:  
**6**In the morning it springs up new,  
    but by evening it is dry and withered.

**12**Teach us to number our days,  
    that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Anthem** *Thanksgiving Prayer*

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

**Second Scripture Reading- 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**  The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**5**Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, **2**for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.**3**While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

**4**But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. **5**You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. **6**So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. **7**For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. **8**But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. **9**For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. **10**He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. **11**Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon** *The Christian Hope (II)*  The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**Introduction**

**First, Knowledge**

**Second, Motivation**

**Third, Assurance**

**Conclusion**

**\*Declaration of Faith (The Apostles’ Creed)** Katherine Bowen

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** Katherine Bowen

Leader: When we give, we combat the lie that we do not matter in this world. So as we enter a time of giving, I invite you to reflect on how your life, your skills, your time, and your money matters to this congregation and to God’s mission in the world.

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

**Offertory Music *Count Your Blessings***

**\*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.** Katherine Bowen

Leader: Generous God, with Thanksgiving quickly approaching, we are reminded to give you thanks for the ministries of this congregation which you have entrusted us with. We are honored by the opportunity to be your holy body here. Bless these offerings, however they are given that our efforts may be ever more worthy of your name.

**All: Amen.**

**\*Hymn** *Jesus, Thou Boundless Love to Me* Red Hymnbook, #404

**\*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** *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come  arr. Wilbur Held*

Ethan Thomas, organist

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

**Announcements**

* **November 26 ─** Poinsettias and Helping fund. The deadline to order poinsettias is November 26. Order forms may be found in the narthex.
* **Special Student Advent Class ─** (December 3, 10, 17, and 24): Youth will meet in the Scout Hall. There will also be one off-site lesson to observe and discuss nativity scenes. See Sarah Shults for more information.
* **The Birth of Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes**─(December 3, 17, and 24): In this three-week Advent series, Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos who grew up in the Middle East will bring a fresh reading to the Christmas story in its original biblical context.
* **Youth Activity December 10** ─ (Sunday) Immediately following service, our youth will go to Johnson City for lunch and bowling.
* **New Members' Class**: Erwin Presbyterian Church is planning to hold a new members' class that will discuss the essential elements of our faith and church membership. If you are interested in becoming a member at EP Church, please contact Rev. Marcos.
* **Prayer Group November 22** ─ (Wednesday at 10:00a.m.): All are welcome!
* **Thanksgiving November 23** ─ (Thursday): Office will be closed
* **December 2 ─** (Saturday): Church decoration for Christmas
* **December 10 ─** (Cantata Sunday 11 a.m.): *Tapestry of Light* by Joseph M. Martin
* **Food Collection ─** Items for November are canned chicken and tuna.
* **Elder of the Month** ─ Frank Gentry

**Sources for Worship Liturgy**

The confession and offering prayers are from The Presbyterian Outlook.

**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**

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**Office hours** **M-Th, Sun:** Out of the Office **M-Wed:** 9 a.m. **-** 2 p.m.