

that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted;
**that true faith in Jesus Christ
is the only condition for membership of this church.**

***Hymn 772**

“Live into Hope”

***The Charge**

Mark 12:28-31

Which commandment is the first of all?

**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
And with all your soul, and with all your mind,
and with all your strength.**

And the second is this:

**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
There is no other commandment greater than these.**

***Blessing**

***Postlude**

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

AZMON

Carl G. Glaser/Carter

**The congregation is invited to stand.*

A hearing loop is active; set hearing aid to “T-coil.”

Scripture passages are read from the New Revised Standard Version.

The Call to Worship is adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2* © 2014 Westminster John Knox Press.

Montreat Presbyterian Church is an Earth Care congregation.

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**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY
MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
AUGUST 20, 2017, 9:00 A.M.**

Morning Meditation

*Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.*

Romans 12:9-10

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

Psalm 133:1

Chimes of the Trinity

Ritual of Fellowship

Voluntary

“Variants on DOMINUS REGIT ME”

John B. Dykes
1868/Carter

***Call to Worship**

God is the Lord of all,

**embracing the estranged, blessing the banished,
reconciling the rejected.**

God’s provision is abundantly more than enough
to preserve the church, redeem the world,
and deliver the tormented.

**O Lord, God of mercy and healing,
we trust in you!**

***Hymn 1**

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Have mercy on us, Lord Jesus.
So often we save our heartfelt prayers for ourselves,
in our own times of need.
Our prayers for your world and all your children
are not always matched by actions.
Forgive us for turning a deaf ear and a blind eye
to the cries of the forgotten
and the suffering of the nations.
Forgive our carelessness, our unwillingness,
and our bending to hateful stereotypes
when we have chosen not to care for our neighbors.
Restore us to usefulness for you, O God,
we humbly pray.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Kyrie Eleison 437 (unison) “You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!”

Assurance of Pardon

Response 587 “Alleluia” CELTIC ALLELUIA
Verses will be sung by the cantor.

Reading from the Old Testament Numbers 21:1-6

Hymn 343 “Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”

Reading from the Gospel Matthew 15:21-28
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

The Sermon “Traveling Towards” Rebekah Carpenter

Prayers of the People and 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.

Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

Offertory “Sheep May Safely Graze” J.S. Bach
Birthday Cantata/Carter

*Doxology 607

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ all people here below, Praise Holy Spirit, evermore,
Praise Triune God Whom we adore. Amen!

*Prayer of Dedication and Affirmation of Faith Belhar Conferssion

We believe in the triune God,
who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit.

**This, God has done since the beginning of the world
and will do to the end.**

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church,
the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

**We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation
is made manifest in the church as the community of believers
who have been reconciled with God and with one another;**
that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ;
that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force,
**yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued
and sought: one which the people of God
must continually be built up to attain;**