

***Hymn 718**

“Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said”

***The Charge**

Romans 12:9-21

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.

Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the saints;

extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty,

but associate with the lowly;

do not claim to be wiser than you are.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil,

but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

If it is possible, so far as it depends on you,

live peaceably with all.

***Blessing**

**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 Morning Meditation is from Dorothy Day, “Love Is the Measure,” *The Catholic Worker*, June, 1946. The Prayer of Confession is reprinted by permission 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.

**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY
MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 3, 2017, 9:00 A.M.**

Morning Meditation

Dorothy Day

*We can, to a certain extent, change the world; we can work for the oasis,
the little cell of joy and peace in a harried world. We can throw our pebble in the pond
and be confident that its ever widening circle will reach around the world.
We repeat, there is nothing that we can do but love, and, dear God, please enlarge our hearts
to love each other, to love our neighbor, to love our enemy as well as our friend.*

Chimes of the Trinity

Ritual of Fellowship

New Member Welcome

Minute for Mission

Bounty and Soul

Voluntary

“How Lovely Shines the Morning Star”

Praetorius

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 105:1-6, 45

O give thanks to the LORD, call on God’s name,
make known God’s deeds among the peoples.

Sing to God, sing praises to God; tell of all God’s wonderful works.

Glory in God’s holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works God has done,
the miracles, and the judgments uttered, O offspring of God’s servant Abraham.

Praise the LORD!

***Hymn 611**

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, we confess that, like Jesus’ first disciples,
we set our minds not on divine things but on human things.
Doubting your loving care, we grab for more than we need.

Doubting your loving purposes,
we shrink from living as your followers.

Doubting your loving plan, we become
stumbling blocks in your creation.

Forgive us, that we may gain new life in you;
for it is in Jesus’ forgiving name we pray. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Kyrie Eleison 575 (unison)

“Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us”

Assurance of Pardon

Response 587

“Alleluia”

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Reading from the Old Testament

Exodus 3:1-15

Reading from the Gospel

Matthew 16:21-26

Hymn 726

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

Reading from the New Testament Epistles

Romans 12:9-21

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

“So Far as It Depends on You”

Keith Grogg

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

“The Gift of Love”

English/arr. Hopson

***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**

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Confession of 1967 (9.21-22)

The reconciling work of Jesus

was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind.

His cross and resurrection become personal crisis

and present hope for women and men

when the gospel is proclaimed and believed.

In this experience, the Spirit brings God’s forgiveness to all,

moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience,

and initiates the new life in Christ.

The new life takes shape in a community in which people know

that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are.

They therefore accept themselves and love others,

knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand,

except God’s grace.