

The Communion of the People

The bread is gluten-free, and the cup contains unfermented grape juice.

The Prayer After Communion

**We thank you, O God, that through Word and Sacrament,
you have given us your Son, who is the true bread from heaven
and food of eternal life. So strengthen us in your service
that our daily living may show our thanks;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***Hymn 65** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

***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.**

***Choral Benediction** "The Peace of the Earth" Guatemalan/Bell

*The peace of the earth be with you, the peace of the heavens too,
the peace of the rivers be with you, the peace of the oceans too.
Deep peace falling over you. God's peace growing in you.*

*The Blessing

***Postlude** "Your Will Be Done on Earth" South Africa/Mxadana

**The congregation is invited to stand.*

Scripture passages are read from the New Revised Standard Version.

Montreat Presbyterian Church is an Earth Care Congregation.

MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

September 8, 2019, 10:00 A.M.

Morning Meditation Luke 14:27

"Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."

Chiming of the Hour and Ritual of Fellowship

Prelude "Lift High the Cross" Powell

***Call to Worship** Will Willimon; Dietrich Bonhoeffer

To be baptized into Christ and in the name of Christ means:

**to be incorporated into the way of life
which characterized his life,**

the life of the empty one,

the servant,

the humble one,

the obedient one, obedient even unto death.

The cross is not the horrible end of a pious, happy life,

**but stands rather at the beginning
of community with Jesus Christ.**

***Hymn 409** "God Is Here!"

Nickel-a-Meal offerings may be brought forward during the hymn.

Prayer of Confession followed by silent prayer

God of wisdom and providence, our future is in your hands.

We are broken vessels that hold no water, yet you are gracious to us.

**Teach us to take up the cross and follow Christ, our Savior,
so that we might be truer disciples than we have yet been
of the one who gave all, for us and for the world you love.**

Kyrie Eleison 417

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

Chancel Choir: *Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin.*

From earthborn passions set me free, and make me pure within.

**Congregation: Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray.
Through darkness and perplexity, point Thou the heavenly way.**

Assurance of Pardon

Response 447 (unison)

“We Are Forgiven”

Scripture Readings

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Luke 14:27

Anthem

“Take Up Your Cross”

Keesecker

“Take up your cross,” the Savior said, “if you would my disciple be;

take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me.”

Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;

Christ’s strength shall bear your spirit up, and brace your heart and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross; heed not its shame, and let your foolish pride be still;

the Lord for you accepted death upon a cross on Calvary’s hill.

Take up your cross and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down;

for only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Take up your cross and follow Christ.

Sermon

“Too Wonderful for Me?”

Rev. 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, the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

“Pastorale”

Wood

***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**

The Confession of 1967

God’s redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of human life:

social and cultural, economic and political,

scientific and technological, individual and corporate.

It is the will of God that the divine purpose for human life

shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ

and all evil be banished from creation.

Already God’s reign is present as a ferment in the world,

stirring hope in all people and preparing the world

to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.

With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself

to present tasks and strives for a better world.

It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth,

nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat.

In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement

to the final triumph of God.

***Hymn 525**

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Words of Institution