

## Welcome and Announcements

### Prelude

- **Call to Worship**

We observe this day as the Lord's Day, giving thanks to God,  
**who forgives us and redeems us,**  
and crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.  
**Let us worship the One who is worthy of our praise!**

- **Invocation**

- **Sounds of Faith:** #620 - Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

- **Prayer of Confession**

We are not here to pass judgment on each other:  
all of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.  
Therefore, let us go before God as we offer our confession.  
**God our Judge, we admit we have double standards.**  
**We seek forgiveness for ourselves, but fail to forgive others.**  
**We seek relief for ourselves, but fail to seek relief for others.**  
**We seek leniency for ourselves, but fail to show that mercy to others.**  
**Forgive us, mighty God, and help us to forgive,**  
**showing others the same grace and mercy that you have generously shown to us.**  
People of God, hear and believe:  
God does not deal with us according to our sins,  
but according to God's own steadfast love for us.  
As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our sins from us. Thanks be to God!

- **Congregational Response:** #575 - Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

**Children's Message:** Stephanie Fox

### Prayer of Illumination

**Scripture Reading:** Exodus 14:21-31, Liturgist ~ Ruth White

*Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At*

*the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."*

*Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.*

*Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.' The Word of the Lord; **thanks be to God.***

**Choir Anthem:** His Mercy is More

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 18:21-35

*Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart." The Word of the Lord; **thanks be to God.***

**Meditation:** Dr. Paul Casner

- **Sounds of Hope: #444** - Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

- **Affirmation of Faith**

God, through Jesus Christ, has shown us mercy. Let us therefore pledge our lives to showing mercy to others, loving them as God in Christ has loved us. Amen.

**Giving and Offertory**

- **Doxology**

**Pastoral Prayers, the Lord's Prayer:**

... **Our Father** who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

- **Sounds of Love: #435** - There's A Wideness in God's Mercy

- **Benediction**

**Postlude**

\*\*The (●) dot in the order of worship invites you to stand as you are able. Text in **bold** indicates unison reading.



**September 18** – Bluegrass Slow Jam 7pm (community event – all are welcome!)

**September 20** – Book Group (1:30pm), Logos (5:30pm) – “Barbie Beach Party”, Agape (6pm) Sign up for the meal at the back of the sanctuary or contact the church office by Noon tomorrow, 9/18 (Cracker Barrel – Roast beef, mashed potatoes, carrots and biscuits); Program – Bible Study with Paul Casner (“Exorcist 2”), NO Choir Practice

**September 27** – Book Group (1:30pm), Logos (5:30pm), Agape (6pm), Choir (7:30pm)

**September 28** – Men's Fellowship Dinner, 5:30pm (location TBD)

**Pastoral Care Team:** Chairs - Tina O'Connor and Joy Roark; Members - Velma Bartley, Janet Bengé, Melanie Caskey, Malee Cherry, Rose Christian, Ann Cox, Charlene Dodson, Diane Ingram, Grace Lewis, Ann Marie McFarland, Betty Polk, Jim & Ruth White, Kim Yearwood, Jill York

***\*\*The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Tommie Swift in memory of his wife, Janet, on this one-year anniversary of her passing (September 15).***

# Donelson Presbyterian Church

*Sharing the Love of Christ*



We warmly welcome all who have come to worship with us today. If you are a guest at Donelson Presbyterian Church, we encourage you to fill out a yellow visitor card which you will find in the pew.

**September 17, 2023**  
***Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost***

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CHILDCARE- for children under 5 years of age  
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