

Sunday Morning Worship
Emmanuel Presbyterian Church
September 29, 2024

Gathering Music “*Adagio from Voluntary I*” [Public Domain]
“*Prière*” [Public Domain]

Welcome and Announcements Liturgist: Liz Simmons

Prelude “*Prelude in C*” [Public Domain]

Call to Worship Ps. 124:1–8 Liturgist

If it had not been for God, who was on our side,
we would have fallen prey to those who want to harm us;
we would have been swept away by sadness and fear.

Blessed be the Lord, our protector!

God has broken the snare that took away our freedom.
Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

Blessed be God’s holy name!

Opening Prayer Liturgist

O gracious and holy God, give us diligence to seek you,
wisdom to perceive you, and patience to wait for you.
Grant us, O God, a mind to meditate on you,
eyes to behold you, ears to listen for your Word,
a heart to love you, and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn # 305 “*Come Sing O Church in Joy*” [One License]

Call to Confession Liturgist

Let us turn to God and confess our need for God’s grace.

Prayer of Confession Liturgist

**Merciful God, you made us in your image, with a mind to know you,
a heart to love you, and a will to serve you.**

**But our knowledge is imperfect, our love inconstant,
our obedience incomplete.**

**Day by day, we fail to grow into your likeness.
In your tender love, forgive us through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Time of Silent Confession

Words of Affirmation

Liturgist

The God who challenges us is also the God who encourages us.

The God who confronts us is also the God who accepts us.

Be assured that God is with us even now,
accepting, guiding, and forgiving.

Thanks be to God.

Sharing the Peace

Liturgist

The peace of Christ be with you,
And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination

Liturgist

Our Lord and our God, now as we hear your Word,
fill us with your Spirit.

Soften our hearts that we may delight in your presence.

Sharpen our minds that we may discern your truth.

Shape our wills that we may desire your ways.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading Esther 7:1–6, 9–10; 9:20–22

Liturgist

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, ‘What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.’ Then Queen Esther answered, ‘If I have won your favour, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.’ Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, ‘Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?’ Esther said, ‘A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!’ Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, ‘Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved

the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high.' And the king said, 'Hang him on that.' So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Second Reading Mark 9:38–50

Guest Preacher

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.'

'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.'

'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

Sermon "Finding our purpose"

Rev. Amy Delaney

*Hymn # 726 "Will You Come and Follow Me"

[One License]

Praying for One Another

Liturgist

Lord of Love,

Hear our Prayer.

Pastoral Prayer

Guest Preacher

The Lord's Prayer

Guest Preacher

**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.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Hymn # 749 "Come! Live in the Light!"*

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Charge and Benediction

Guest Preacher

Postlude "Andante from Voluntary I"

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