

# Our Prodigal God

*November 22, 2020*  
*10:00 a.m.*



**MEDIA  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

## OUR MISSION AND VISION

*Our Mission is to love God and love our neighbor.*



*Our Vision is to be a Christian Community that worships together, serves together, and grows together in faith.*

## VISITING TODAY?

*If this is your first time worshipping with us,  
we hope you will feel welcome.*

*If you have questions, please don't hesitate  
to reach out to us by phone or email. We also invite you to visit  
our website at [www.mediapresbyterian.org](http://www.mediapresbyterian.org)*

stephen  
MINISTRY.

Christ Caring for People Through People  
[stephenministry@mediapresbyterian.org](mailto:stephenministry@mediapresbyterian.org)



*\*All who can do so comfortably are invited to stand*

# Welcome

245TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 22, 2020

---

## GATHERING

---

**Prelude**

Sean Michael McDonald, Organist

### Welcome and Announcements

**\* Sharing the Joy of Our Faith** *(We encourage you to greet others and receive greetings while remaining in your pews. We encourage you to wave, offer the peace sign, clap your hands, tap your feet, whichever way you choose - we are blessed to be together to worship while remaining a safe physical distance apart. If you are worshipping virtually, we invite you to extend greetings using the chat feature.)*

### Call to worship (from Psalm 118):

Liturgist: Thank God because he's good, because his love never quits.

**People: And all who fear God, join in, His love never quits.**

Liturgist: I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

**People: The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

Liturgist: You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

**People: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."**

### Opening Hymn/Song

### Children's Moment

### Blessing of the Children (All)

Dear God, bless your children here, in our neighborhood and in our ministries throughout the coming week. Show them \_\_\_\_\_

**your goodness. Give them your peace for when they are afraid. Teach them to hear your voice. And be with us now and throughout this week, as we seek to worship you. Amen.**

### **Call to Confession** (1 John 1:8-9)

**Liturgist:** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**People:** **If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*(a time of honesty before God in silent confession)*

### **Prayer of Confession** (*All*)

**"For what we are about to receive,  
may the Lord make us truly thankful.**

**We confess today that we are too jealous to be thankful,  
we complain, "Why do they get everything?"**

**we compare ourselves with those who have more.**

**We confess that we have forgotten how to say thank you;**

**we have gotten used to saying, "I earned this,"**

**and we often feel we have only ourselves to thank.**

**We confess that we are too busy to be thankful;**

**we may have asked ourselves this morning, "Do I have time for  
worship?"**

**and even in worship we are thinking about our to-do lists.**

**We confess that we are grudgingly thankful;**

**we say, "I guess this will have to do,"**

**while believing that God has given us a raw deal.**

**We confess that we are too tired to be thankful,**

**we sigh, "I just want to get through this day,"**

**and we have no energy to open our eyes to the blessings around  
us.**

**We confess that we are not thankful enough to be generous,**

**we bargain with God, "I'll be unselfish when you give me more,"**

**or we are free with money, but are stingy in spending time with**

others.

We confess that we are barely thankful;  
we say the words, but don't feel grateful in their hearts  
we go through the motions, but think,  
"I don't know how to be really thankful."  
Today we pray a simple prayer.  
For what we have received, Lord,  
make us truly thankful."

### Assurance of Pardon (from Psalm 91: 14-16)

Liturgist: Those who love me, I will deliver, says the Lord;  
I will protect those who know my name.  
When they call to me, I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble,  
I will rescue them and honor them,  
With long life I will satisfy them,  
and show them my salvation.

Receive the good news of the gospel.

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

## EQUIPPING

### THE WORD

---

**First Reading:** Romans 8: 9-17

One: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon Reading:** Luke 15: 11-32

**Sermon:**

*Our Prodigal God*  
Rev. Jonathan Fettig

## RESPONSE

### \* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Apostles' Creed*

Please join me in the affirmation of faith, the Apostles Creed.  
Brothers and sisters what do you believe?

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### Prayers of the People

#### Invitation to Stewardship

At this time we are invited to join God in generosity. One of the most famous verses in the Bible, John 3:16 states, "for God so loved the world that He gave His Son. So that whoever believes in Him might not perish but that they might have eternal life." We invite you to give, right now. You can navigate to the MPC website and click the **GIVE ONLINE** button in the top right corner. You can also mail a check or drop off a check in the church mailbox. If you are unable to give financially, you are still invited to Join Jesus in generosity. You may give your heart, you may give your life, you may give your service. If you would like to offer your gifts through the ministry of the church, please reach out to Pastor Jonathan or Pastor Rose. Freely you have received, freely give.

Offering Song

*10,000 Reasons*

Worship Team

### \* Prayer of Dedication

## CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER

---

*After the Words of Institution, we invite you to celebrate Communion using your bread and your juice. If you are in the sanctuary, you will be invited to take a single-serve communion cup. Remove the first wrapper for the wafer, the second for the grape juice.*

### **Invitation to the Lord's Table**

#### **The Great Thanksgiving**

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The prayer continues...*

### **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.**

### **Words of Institution**

### **Communion of the People**

### **Communion/ Meditation**

Sean Michael McDonald, Organ

### **Prayer of Affirmation**

**\*Closing Hymn/Song**

## **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**\*Postlude**

Sean Michael McDonald, Organ

All songs and lyrics printed and livestreamed by copyright permission. Media Presbyterian Church is licensed through CCLI (#1385766) and OneLicense (#723679).

---

### **Leading worship this morning...**

---

Rev. Jonathan Fettig, *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Rose Sparrow, *Interim Parish Associate*

Carrie Biermann, *Director of Children & Family Ministries*

Sebastian Carpenter, *Director of Contemporary Music and Worship, Interim  
Director of Youth Ministries*

Elder Steve Buxton, *Worship Leader*

Lisa VanHeldorf, *Choir Director*

Sean Michael McDonald, *Organist*

## Small Group Questions

Luke 15: 11-32

### **Questions to ponder as we get to know a little about each other:**

- Did you ever run away from home? Where did you go? What happened?
- Who was (or is) the “obedient type” in your family? The “wild one”? Which were (or are) you? How did (or do) these types get along?

### **Questions to help us dig into the Scripture:**

- What stages does the younger son go through on his pilgrimage? What brings him to his senses? What does he realize then? With what sort of attitude does he approach his father?
- How does the father receive his son? Why?
- How does the older brother feel about his younger brother’s return? Why? How does the father answer the older brother’s objection?
- What’s Jesus’ point with this parable? What does this story teach about sin, repentance and God’s love?

### **Questions to help us apply the Scripture to our own life, to take personal inventory and share with the group what you are going to do as a result:**

- Comparing yourself to the two brothers in the story, who are you most like? Why? Are you quietly “at home”? Living only for today? Paying the consequences for yesterday? On the way home? Whom would you have identified with 10 years ago, or in your youth?
- Have you experienced God as similar to this father?
- When have you been like the older brother, quietly resentful of God’s lavishness to less deserving people? Why?
- Consider verse 31. What does God have to give you that you have not taken?