

divisions made deeper by money, opportunity, violence, and arrogance. We don't want to hear the stories of those less fortunate than us because it hurts. We don't want to see the faces of our sisters and brothers who are hurting because we will feel responsible. We don't want to feel responsibility because we will feel the need to change. We don't want to change. But you call for us to be transformed. You call for us to open our eyes and see ourselves in each living breathing being on earth. We know we can't change the entire world in our lifetime. But help us see how we can transform ourselves so the world might come one, small step closer to realizing your love. Amen.

### Declaration of Forgiveness

Leader: God hears our cries and longs to help us in our struggle. God hears our confessions and forgives us. May we take God's desire for transformation seriously and find ways to respond to God's forgiveness with acts of love and faith.

**People: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### \*Congregational Response

"Glory to God in the Highest" (back cover Hymnal)

### \*Passing of the Peace

### Prayer for Illumination

**First Reading** Psalm 119:33-49

**Anthem** "Walk By Faith" (Williams/Raney)

**Second Reading** Acts 16:9-15

**Message** "Faithful Leading" Rev. Wil Reinowski

\*Hymn "For All the Faithful Women" 324

\* **Litany in Honor of Women Here and Around the World** (see insert)

\***Congregational Response** "Gloria Patri" 581

### Prayers of the People

**The Lord's Prayer**

### Invitation to Offering

*The offering basket is located at the back of the west aisle of the sanctuary. Feel free to leave your offering at any time.*

**Offertory** "House of the Lord" (Smith/Wickham)

\***Doxology** 606

### \*Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

**God of all things, we give this money as a token of what is important to us. May this money go to do good. May this money go to do justice. But also, may the giving of this money help guide us into the path of awareness, recognizing that what this world needs is not more money, but more good...more justice...more of each of us loving one another. Amen.**

\***Hymn** "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" 475

### \*Benediction

**Postlude** "The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba" (G.F. Handel)

\* *Please stand as you are able.*



*MUSIC NOTES-Hymn 324 "For All the Faithful Women" was written to commemorate the ordination of the first woman in the Lutheran Church in America. Other hymn information is at the bottom of page 324 in the hymnal.*

*"The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba" (Postlude) is an instrumental portion of the oratorio Solomon by G.F. Handel. In the Bible the Queen of Sheba arrives in Jerusalem with many attendants and camels, gold, spices, and precious stones for King Solomon (1 Kings 10; 2 Chronicles 9). An oratorio is much like an opera except that an oratorio's subject is religious in nature and an oratorio is not acted out on stage.*

## In Our Prayers ✂

We pray for the family of Pat Stuckey as she enters the Church Triumphant. We pray for Shirley West, Bill Walthour, Peg Wier, Hal Lefever, Don Nead, Keith Beach and Roy Meeks, father of Cy Meeks, for health reasons. We also pray for our Special Care friends Edith Short and Ralph Smith.

# Central Happenings

## SUNDAY – September 10

10:00am Worship (Sanctuary/Online)

## MONDAY – September 11

7:00pm Deacons (Fitch Parlor/Hybrid)

## WEDNESDAY – September 13

10:00am WOW (Fitch Parlor)

12:00pm Charity Knitters (Discipleship)

5:30pm Bell Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

## THURSDAY – September 14

7:00pm Central Choir Practice (Rehearsal Hall)

**The Congregational Letters** today are for the family of Pat Stuckey and Keith Beach. Please add your name and best thoughts to the letters found at the back of the sanctuary.

**Sunday School is back.** Starting October 1 at 9:00am a series of four classes on planning and living a good end will take place every other week in the Fitch Parlor. These classes will help you develop and communicate your plans to your loved ones, professional services and the church. No need to sign-up.

**Mark your calendar** for a special worship service on September 24. We will be gathering in the Columbia Street parking lot for a Blessing of the Animals Service. You are encouraged to bring your pets. If you are not comfortable in doing so, you could bring a picture of a current or past pet for recognition and blessing. We will provide chairs for people and water stations for pets. Invite your family and neighbors.

**See more important announcements on the insert.**

Pastor: Wil Reinowski  
Adult Music & Organist: Jeffry Stearns  
Adult Handbells: Janice Spitalniak  
Celebration Music: Paul Foster  
Custodian: Bob Hill

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# Central Presbyterian Church

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Daughters of the Most High: Women's Voices in Scripture  
September 10, 2023



## Welcome

**Prelude** "Grace" (arr. Brenda Austin)

**\*Call to Worship** Deb Hester

Leader: Come, like Sister Miriam, leading the Hebrew people out of bondage with tambourines and dance!

**People: We come to our God with praise.**

Leader: Come, like Sister Martha, running through the dark with courage, proclaiming that Jesus is God!

**People: We come to our God with our doubt and our faith.**

Leader: Come, with the word of God on your lips, like Sister Mary, preaching that God lifts up the lowly.

**People: We come to our God with proclamation.**

Leader: Come and proclaim justice, like Mother Theresa with a passion for all people and an unquenchable search for justice.

**People: We come to our God with hope.**

Leader: Come sisters and brothers, as you are, and join in the worship of the One who unites all women, all men, all children.

**People: Here we are! We raise our voices in unity and celebration! Praise to the one who unites us all!**

**\*Hymn** "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty" 403

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**Mother God, you made us a people to dwell together. But we confess, something happened. We have distanced ourselves from your love. We have built walls between each other. What we don't see we don't love and what we don't love we are fearful of. In your generous diversity, loving God, we have formed division—**