

Earle Street Baptist Church

10:30 am Worship

September 29, 2024

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

CHIMES

WELCOME

Janice Hinnant

PRELUDE

The Wayfaring Stranger

arr. Smith/Russell

CALL TO WORSHIP

Wayne Turner

Leader: Brothers and sisters, come back from the far country, from the exile of self-contempt, or the fields of dutiful labor.

People: For God longs to welcome and love us!

Leader: When we run away, God stands ready to embrace us.

People: When we squander God's gifts, God continues to bestow gifts upon us.

Leader: God's mercy and forgiveness are beyond our comprehension.

People: We who have been lost are found in God's arms, and we are found when we forgive each other.

Leader: For, if we do not love and celebrate a sinner's reform and return, we are lost ourselves.

All: Let us worship the God who awaits our return with lavish love. Amen.

INVOCATION

*HYMN OF PRAISE #44

O My Soul, Bless God the Father

STUTTGART

(All children, grade 5 and under, may come forward on the final stanza.)

**O my soul, bless God the Father; all within me bless His name;
Bless the Father, and forget not all His mercies to proclaim.**

**Who forgives all your transgressions, your diseases all who heals;
Who redeems you from destruction, who with you so kindly deals.**

**Far as east from west is distant, He has put away our sin;
Like the pity of a father has the Lord's compassion been.**

**As it was without beginning, so it lasts without an end;
To their children's children ever shall his righteousness extend.**

**Unto such as keep His covenant and are steadfast in His way;
Unto those who still remember His commandments and obey.**

**Bless the Father, all His creatures, ever under His control,
All throughout His vast dominion: bless the Father, O my soul.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Catherine Carnes

(Following this, preschoolers, ages 3 – K5, may go to Sunday School.)

ANTHEM

I Choose Love

by Mark Miller

Wren Smith, soloist; Youth Ensemble

In the midst of pain, I choose love. In the midst of pain, I choose love.

In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love. I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose peace. In the midst of war, I choose peace.
In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,
I will seek the good once more, I choose peace. I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise. When my world falls down, I will rise.
When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,
I will climb to holy ground, I will rise. I will rise.

In the midst of pain, I choose love. In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love. I choose love.

*OFFERTORY HYMN #41 *There's A Wideness in God's Mercy* WELLESLEY

**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in His justice, which is more than liberty.**

**There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in His blood.**

**But we make His love too narrow by false limits of our own;
And we magnify His strictness with a zeal He will not own.**

**For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.**

**If our love were but more simple, we could take Him at His word;
And our lives would be more loving in the likeness of our Lord.**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER Joe Jones

OFFERTORY *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* arr. Beckie Compton

*RESPONSE *Doxology* OLD 100TH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS Luke 15:1-2, 11-32 Gary Strickland

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ²But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your

hired servants.’ ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate. ²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹ “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

Romans 5:6-8

⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

I Surrender All to You

by Mary McDonald

Sanctuary Choir

O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;
 Be Thou forever near me, my Master and my friend.
 I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side,
 Nor wander from the pathway if Thou will be my guide.
 I surrender, Lord, to You; all I am, I owe to You.
 O Jesus, I promise to surrender all to You!

O Jesus, Thou has promised to all who follow Thee,
 That where Thou art in glory, there shall Thy servant be.
 And Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end,
 O give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend!
 I surrender, Lord, to You; all I am, I owe to You.

O Jesus, I promise to surrender all, O Jesus, I promise to surrender all to You,
 Surrender all to You, surrender all to You. I surrender all to You.

SERMON

“God Is Looking for Those Who Run Away”

Gary Strickland

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT #471

RESTORATION

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

**Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;
 Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love and power.**

**I will arise and come to Jesus; He will embrace me in His arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.**

**Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome, God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh.
I will arise and come to Jesus; He will embrace me in His arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.**

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;
If you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all.
I will arise and come to Jesus; He will embrace me in His arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.**

**Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream;
All the fitness He requireth is to feel your need of Him.
I will arise and come to Jesus; He will embrace me in His arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.**

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*BENEDICTION

Gary Strickland

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #705

GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be;
World without end. Amen, amen.**

*POSTLUDE

Festive Postlude on "All Creatures"

arr. Paul Fey

*Congregation will please stand.

Acolyte—Hadley Clow

Deacon of the Week—Joe Jones

Greeters—Linda Garner/Glenn Arrowood

Sound Technician—Hunter Freeman

Video Technician—Andrew Spivey

Ushers—Glenn Arrowood, Mary Arrowood, Quay Farmer, Joe Jones, Monte McKinney, Robin Scott Blackburn

Preschool/Children's Volunteers—Rebecca Register, Tammy Dowdy, Judy Lemmons, Sarah Spivey, Jeannie Flowe, Jane Leo, Noellen Groff, Gabe Carnes, Ashley Patterson, Marsha Burt, Anna Kay Lord, Bill Burt, Russell Young