



Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 3, 2023

Communion Sunday and 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

Welcome and Ministry Announcements

Dr. Yvan Kelly

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

***Opening Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #385

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

***Call to Worship**

Worship Leader

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Persist in prayer. Let love for our community build the warmth of mutual affection.

People: With great energy and led by the Spirit, we will serve the Lord.

Gathering Prayer

Cedrick Grant

Call to Confession

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Prayer of Confession

Dr. Yvan Kelly

People: Thoughtful God, we confess that our thoughts are too content with easy ways and the avoidance of suffering. Though you anoint your people to be leaders, we prefer the safety of obscurity. Too often we pray only for ourselves and not for the nations around your globe. Forgive us for the sake of the cross-bearing Christ.

Leader: Please continue in silent confession....Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Leader: Friends, hear the good news! The Lord will redeem us.

People: Our Lord will show us his favor.

Leader: Friends, believe the good news!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Word

A Time for Children

Dr. Yvan Kelly

(Children will go to Sunday School)

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 3:1-15

Cedrick Grant

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Matthew 16:21-28

Dr. Yvan Kelly

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and

said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message

“From Solid Rock to Stumbling Block”

Dr. Yvan Kelly

***Middle Hymn**

“Holy Spirit”

The Lord’s Supper

Prayers of the People /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.

Giving Thanks to God with Our Gifts and Offerings

Offertory Song

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

People: Uniting Christ, gather these gifts we bring into a functioning body with grace and works acceptable to you. Amen.

Sending

***Closing Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #839

“Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!”

Charge and Blessing

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Announcements

Online Giving Change - The Presbyterian Foundation is now handling our online donations (via Vanco). The giving page on the church's website has detailed information on how to donate through the website and through Vanco's mobile app. If you have recurring payments set up on the old Vanco system, you will need to end those and set up new ones on the new system. The link for the old system is on the church's website on the [giving page](#). More information is on the website's giving page as well as in tomorrow's newsletter.

Adult Sunday School - Adult Sunday School is now meeting at the regular time of 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING! THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING! - Shawn is looking for volunteers to be on the 2023 Pumpkin 🎃 Patch committee. There will be a meeting right after worship today in the classroom on the right. Then come October, it is all hands-on deck! Our pumpkins will be delivered on October 6 at 4:00, with the Patch opening on Saturday morning. All volunteers are welcome. It's fun and easy. Thank you everyone.

Sunday School Teachers Needed - Sunday school teachers are needed. If you are interested, please reach out to Jeannie Brecht or Craig Barcliff for more information.

Bunko September 16 - Come for a fun night of playing Bunko on Saturday, September 16, at 6:00 p.m. No experience is needed and it is fun for all ages. The entrance fee is \$10 per person and includes an evening of fun and dessert. All proceeds go to the church's building fund.

OneBlood Blood Drive September 17 - On Sunday, September 17, the Big Red Bus will be in the parking lot hosting a blood drive from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Please register in advance by clicking [here](#).

Fresh Ideas September 22-23 - The Presbytery of St. Augustine (our Presbytery) is teaming up with the Presbytery of Central Florida to host the FISH (Fresh Ideas Start Here) conference at Camp Montgomery. Designed for volunteers and professionals in ministry, the dates are Sept. 22-23. More information can be found [here](#).

Financial Giving - You may place your offering in the offering plate, drop off a check at the office, put it in the mail, or use our online giving portal that can be accessed [here](#) or by scanning the QR code to the right.



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Kirkwood Presbyterian Church
Phone/Fax: 904.777.0006 | website: www.kirkwoodchurch.org
Dr. Yvan Kelly | E-mail: ykelly@bellsouth.net