

**St. John's Reformed Church**  
**September 17, 2023 10 a.m.**  
**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*(Please join responsively by speaking aloud the bolded sections)*

Pre-Prelude *Jane Bier, Organist*  
Announcements and Hospitality *Reverend James Alley*

**Our Approach to God**

Prelude *Jane Bier, Organist*  
Votum *Mary Hennessy, Liturgist*  
The Lord is in his Holy Temple! Let all the world keep silent before him!

\*Call to Worship (based on Psalm 103) *Mary Hennessy, Liturgist*

Leader: O Lord, your throne is established in the heavens.

**People: Your Kingdom rules over all.**

Leader: Let your angels bless you, Lord,

**People: the mighty ones who do your bidding.**

Leader: Let your hosts and ministers bless you, Lord.

**People: For it is they who carry out your will.**

Leader: Let all creation bless you, Lord.

**People: Bless the Lord, O my soul!**

\*Hymn *Crown Him with Many Crowns* #223 vs. 1,2,3,4

Salutation *Reverend James Alley*

Prayer of Invocation *Reverend James Alley*

Prayer of Confession *Mary Hennessy, Liturgist*

**When Jesus taught the disciples how to pray while on the mountain, he told us all that only by forgiving others could we hope for forgiveness from you our heavenly Father. Yet we hold onto grudges against others - strangers, neighbors, co-workers, family members - and even ourselves? You know better than we do hard it is for us to forgive others! And yet you died by torture for all of us, and promise help to us if we try to do your will. Weak as we are, take our willingness to receive you. Help us to let go any anger against others, great or small, and thereby free us to live life to the fullest. In Jesus' name we pray, AMEN.**

Kyrie Eleison *Lord have mercy upon us;*  
*Christ have mercy upon us; Lord have mercy upon us.*

Assurance of Pardon *Reverend James Alley*

Summary of the Law *Reverend James Alley*

**Response: May the Spirit guide us to be obedient to this Word. Amen.**

\*Gloria Patri

***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.***

Musical Meditation *Roy Feldhusen, Pianist*

**The Word of God in Proclamation**

Prayer for Illumination *Mary Hennessy, Liturgist*

Lectionary Lessons: *Mary Hennessy, Liturgist*

Lesson from the Old Testament: **Genesis 50:15-21** (page 48)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

\*Hymn *As the Deer* #503 sing 2 times

\*Gospel Lesson: **Matthew 18:21-35** (page 20) *Reverend James Alley*

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ**

Sermon

Prayer for Blessing

**Our Response to God's Grace**

\*Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed *Mary Hennessy, Liturgist*  
**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father[and the Son],**

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one Holy catholic and apostolic \*Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*\*The Church universal, that exists in all times and places.*

\*The Peace The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Offering & Offertory *Jane Bier, Organist*

\*Doxology *Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*

*Praise Him all creatures here below.*

*Praise Him above ye heavenly host.*

*Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

**Dear Lord, we return to you but a token of the bounty which you have lavished on us your creation. And yet, along with these gifts, we offer to you our very selves as willing sacrifices for your glory and ministry in heaven and on earth, AMEN.**

Prayers for the People of God

The Lord's Prayer (use 'trespasses')

**Our Father, who are in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

\*Prayer Response *Threefold Amen Amen, Amen, Amen*

\*Hymn *By Grace We Have Been Saved* #675 vs. 1,2,3

\*Benediction

\*Congregational Amen *"Go Now in Peace"*

*Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with us each hour of every day. Go now in faith steadfast strong and true. Know he will guide us in all we do. Go now in love, and show we believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith and, in love.*

Postlude

*Jane Bier, Organist*

\*Indicates congregation to stand if able.

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Upper Red Hook, New York

