



Faith, Hope, and Charity -- Bas relief sculpture of the three theological virtues<sup>2</sup>

## ***Service for the Lord's Day***

**September 21, 2025**

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

### ***Gathering Around the Word of Worship***

**Gathering Music**

Mike Kanan

**Striking of the Hour**

**Prelude**

*Ouverture*

Anonymous  
transcr. Nathaniel Brown

**Welcome**

*We Rise in Spirit and in Body*

**Call to Worship** (responsive)

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.

**God's mercy never comes to an end!**

God's grace, mercy, and peace are new every moment!

**Great is God's faithfulness. Praise the Lord!**

**Opening Hymn 299**

You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

HANOVER

**Call to Adoration and Confession**

**Prayer of Adoration and Confession** (unison)

**God, you are our Rock and our Refuge. You watch over us and keep us in your steadfast love. We praise you and glorify you. Lord, you lift up the lowly and hold out hope to the hopeless. Yet we who receive your grace so freely do not follow your example. We are quick to judge, eager to criticize, slow to show mercy. We gather and keep for ourselves what was meant to be shared. We insult, diminish, and disrespect those around us. God of us all, hear this confession. Receive it.**

**We ask for your forgiveness. Amen.**

*A Silence is observed for Personal Confession*

**Confessional Hymn 695**

*Change My Heart, O God*

**CHANGE MY HEART**

Refrain: Change my heart, O God make it ever true

Change my heart, O God; May I be like you.

You are the Potter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

to Refrain

**Declaration of Good News** (responsive)

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Passing of the Peace of Christ** (responsive)

Jesus draws us to himself in love that we might love one another. May Christ's love and peace be with you.

**And also with you. Amen.**

**A Time with Young Christians** (children welcomed to the front of the sanctuary)

***Hearing the Word***

*All Sit*

**Prayer for Illumination** (unison)

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Open us to your life-giving Word. Quiet the voices within us that do not align with your will. Focus our minds on the message you intend for us, so we may faithfully discern your way. Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading** (responsive)

Psalm 113

Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD. Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time on and forevermore.

**From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised.**

**The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.**

Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth? He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.

**He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children.**

**Praise the LORD!**

**Anthem**

*All Ye Nations Praise the Lord*

W.A. Mozart/arr. Elliot Hadley

## Gospel Reading

Luke 16:1-13

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes. "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

*All Sit*

## Sermon

*Acting Shrewdly*

Kyle Otterbein

## ***Responding to the Word***

*All Stand*

## Response Hymn 340

This Is My Song

FINLANDIA

## Affirmation of Faith (unison)

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.... In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

*All Sit*

## Offering

*Call to Offering*

## Offertory

*Aria*

Jean de Cambefort  
transcr. Nathaniel Brown

*All Stand*

## Doxology

DOXOLOGY

*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.*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)**

**Generous God, what we place before you is but a fraction of all you have entrusted to us. Receive these gifts, we ask, and multiply them for your purpose. Let our offerings become a source of blessing for the most vulnerable, for those in greatest need. May the act of giving, rooted in generosity, loosen our grip on what we possess, and kindle in us a deeper desire to share. Amen.**

*All Sit*

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

*A Moment of Silence*

*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*

***Bearing and Following the Word into the Created World***

*All Stand*

**Closing Hymn 697**

Take My Life

HENDON

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Grand Ballet*

Anonymous

transcr. Nathaniel Brown

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<sup>1</sup>Notes: Elements of today's liturgy were adapted from liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott.

<sup>2</sup>Notes: Building: St. Giles Cathedral. Object/Function: Relief Sculpture. Material: Stone. City/Town: Edinburgh.

## This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal grey lines across its entire width, providing a guide for handwriting or typing. The background is a clean, solid white color.

## ***Announcements***

**USHERS:** Polen and Thomison families

**COLLEGIATE ENSEMBLE** Sammy DelRey, Blake Miller, Keelin Murrell, Mack Overfelt, and Johnna Smith

**LAY READER:** Dillon Miller

**MEDIA PERSONNEL:** Laura Parkerson

**NURSERY:** Yamilet Bruno Sanchez

**LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28:** Amos 6:1a, 4–7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6–19; Luke 16:19–31

### **TODAY**

**DEACON OF THE WEEK** this week will be Evan Goad. Deacons assist the Pastor in caring for our congregation. You may contact them through the church office: 270-843-4707.

**PHOTOGRAPH FOR DIRECTORY** This Sunday, Pastor Kyle Otterbein will be taking photographs for our new church directory after worship service. If you or your family would like to update your photograph for our directory, please see Pastor Kyle after service.

**TOPPER CAMPUS MINISTRY** is hosting a luncheon for college students in the Fellowship Hall. We invite all college students to attend luncheon, featuring a delicious home-cooked meal provided by Margaret Stein. Know a college student? Please let them know they are welcome. (Note, this is not an all-church meal, but intended for our college students and Campus Ministry leaders.) At the luncheon, the college students and our interested Campus Ministry volunteers will meet and discuss ideas for our Topper Ministry in the coming weeks and months. Interested in helping out? Let Margaret Stein or Donna Wolbe know. You can email Margaret or Donna at [topper@bgpres.org](mailto:topper@bgpres.org). We will need future volunteers willing to prepare home-cooked meals, to transport students, or help in other ways as we grow to know and care for college students. We would love for you to get to know these special young people and welcome them to make us their church family away from home.

**THE AFTER CHURCH EATING OUT GROUP** will meet today at 12:00 p.m. at Montana Grill, 1740 Scottsville Road. This group is for people who like to go out to eat after church and enjoy visiting with others. Come join us!

**WALK4WATER** Millions of women and children walk more than three miles to collect water for their families every day. Often, this water is not safe to drink, resulting in illness and even death. **We can change this.**

Walk4water is providing water wells and water filtration systems for communities in Africa without access to a source of safe water and also providing the tools and resources needed to conduct village-wide workshops to help educate communities.

Some of our youth are Walking for Water on Sunday, September 21. The walk is at Preston Miller Park, 2303 Tomblinson Way. Sign in at 1:30 and the walk starts at 2:00. Come join them on the walk or let them know you support this important cause by making a donation.



## **OTHER NEWS**

**NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY** we are updating our database to get ready for a new Church Directory. If you haven't recently updated your information, please pick up a communication card outside the office doors, at the entrance of the sanctuary or simply scan the QR code to update your information. You can return your card to the office Monday-Friday during office hours or hand it to the Usher after worship.

Directory Form



**INSPIRATIONAL MEDITATION** The Tuesday morning yoga class has a new name. It is now Inspirational Meditation. Class meets here at the church on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. If you would like the opportunity to learn how integrate your mind, body and spirit to align with God's Spirit, please come join this class. Instructor: Trudy Burkeen.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOK FOR 2025** Please scan the QR code, review the available scriptures, and consider signing up for a scripture verse. After you sign-up for a verse, share a personal message or what this verse means to you in writing, and send your draft to Erika at [solberg770@gmail.com](mailto:solberg770@gmail.com) by Sunday, October 19th. Drafts can be in the body of the email, in a Google Document, or in a Word Document. Any questions please contact Erika Solberg or Michelle Fluit ([fluitmichelle@gmail.com](mailto:fluitmichelle@gmail.com)). With your permission, and after finalization, we would like to share your message in the 2025 Advent Devotional Book.



**SATURDAY MEALS** The Presbyterian Church is scheduled for Saturday Meals sorting, cooking, and delivering on September 27. We are looking for volunteers for the following:

- 5 volunteers to cover delivery 8:30-9:30

If you have any questions, want to help, or know others that would like to assist, contact Susan Thomison, 270-791-6950.

**LAY READERS NEEDED FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER** A signup page is online for lay readers in the coming weeks. If you are willing to serve one Sunday, please scan the QR code to visit this link and sign up for a date. Lay reader information will be emailed on the Friday prior to the date. Thank you!



**NEWSLETTER FOLDERS/SEALERS** A signup page is online for upcoming months for Newsletter folders/sealers. If you are willing to volunteer to help in the office with this task, scan the QR code to visit this link and sign up for a date, contact Robin by phone at 270-843-4707, or email at [info@bgpres.org](mailto:info@bgpres.org).



## WELCOME VISITORS!

*We invite you to pick up visitor's information on your way out, either in the narthex or on the table on the right in the downstairs entrance hall. Ushers will be standing by to help you find them. Always know that a cordial greeting is extended by the minister, officers, and congregation.*

**Clerk of Session:** Debbie Trickey    **Treasurer:** Steve Moore

**Elders:** Class of 2026- Pam Bratcher, Rachel Crocker, Claire Ellington, J.B. Hines, Susan Howard, Mike Kanan; Class of 2027-Sam Evans, Nathan Love, Susan Thomison, Debbie Trickey, Larry Warden; Class of 2028- Clark Carthrae, Buzz English, Julia Roberts, Julie Wedge; **Deacons:** Class of 2026- Phil Burkeen, Kim Ferguson, Kathy Higgins, Laura Parkerson, Brianna Trickey; Class of 2027-Trudy Burkeen, Georgeanna Capito, Sally Calkins, Nancy Carwell, Evan Goad, Frederica Kernohan; Class of 2028- Sharon Hendrix, Jan Morgan, and Margaret Stein.

### The Presbyterian Church Staff

*Transitional Pastor  
Director of Music/Chancel Choir Director  
Children's Music Director  
Organist  
Financial Administrator  
Treasurer  
Office Coordinator  
Director, Preschool Learning Center  
Custodian  
Clerk of Session  
Sound Attendant/Sunday Sexton*

*Rev. Kyle Otterbein  
Dr. Wayne Pope  
Mrs. Beth Pope  
Dr. Nathaniel Brown  
Mrs. Terry Johnson  
Mr. Steve Moore  
Mrs. Robin Watkins Tolbert  
Ms. Kimberly Watkins  
Mr. Cedric Whitney  
Mrs. Debbie Trickey  
Ms. Laura Parkerson*

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**Donate Online:** The church website, <https://bgpres.org/give>, accepts online donations. Just go to our website, <https://bgpres.org/give>, and fill out the simple form. Donations can also be made from your smart phone. You may also scan this QR code:



### Calendar

#### Sunday, September 21

8:30 a.m. Fellowship  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
9:15 a.m. Children's Music  
9:45 a.m. Godly Play  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
11:45 a.m. Topper Ministry Luncheon  
12:00 p.m. After Church Eat Out Group  
1:30 p.m. WALK4WATER Youth Group

#### Monday, September 22

9:00 a.m. GOD/DOG is Love

#### Tuesday, September 23

9:30 a.m. Inspirational Meditation  
11:00 a.m. Special Care  
1:00 p.m. CUICHM

#### Wednesday, September 24

7:00 a.m. Breakfast Group  
10:30 a.m. Crisis and New Creation Class  
5:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

#### Friday, September 26

7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group

#### Saturday, September 27

6:30 a.m. Saturday Meals

**The Presbyterian Church, 1003 State Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101**

270-843-4707 • [www.bgpres.org](http://www.bgpres.org)

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