

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY If You Only Had Faith (Just Like a Little Seed of Mustard)

\*DOXOLOGY #607

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

—Sending—

\*HYMN #175

Seek Ye First

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

In the Midst of New Dimensions

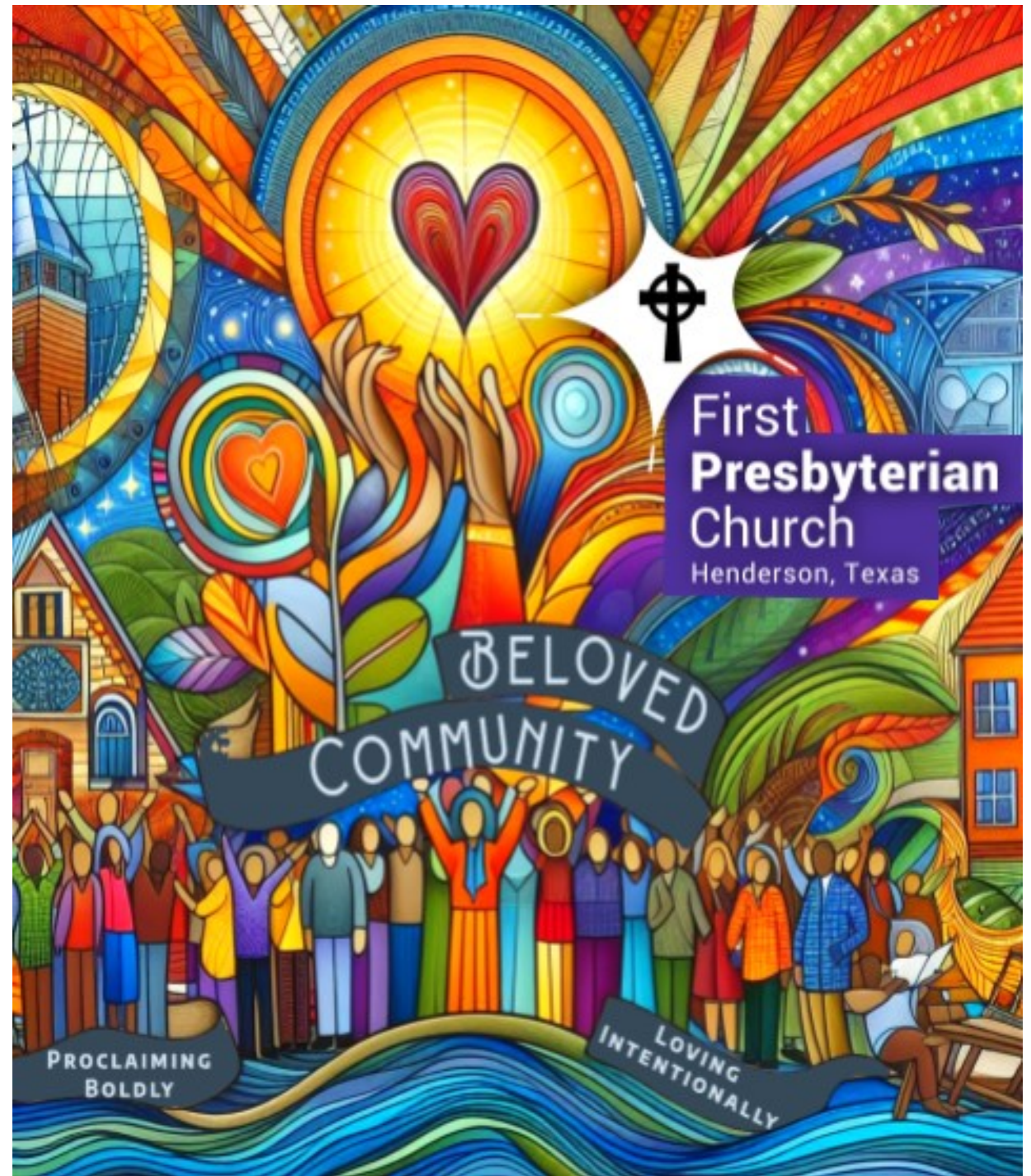
*You may sit after the light passes you in the aisle.*



*Serving God,  
Honoring Creation,  
Embracing Differences*



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June 16, 2024

4th Sunday after Pentecost

(\*) Please rise in body or in spirit  
***Bold Italic Letters*** indicate congregational response

— ***Gathering*** —

**PRELUDE**

**Just a Closer Walk**

**WELCOME**

**Liturgist: Carol Scoggins**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (based on on Ezekiel 17:22-24)

God takes a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar,  
and plants it on a high mountain  
**in order that it may produce boughs and  
bear fruit and become a noble cedar.**  
Under it every kind of bird will live;  
in the shade of its branches will nest  
winged creatures of every kind.  
**God welcomes. God loves. God provides.**

**\*HYMN #263**

**All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!**

**CONFESSION**

***Holy God, you are a blessing to all people yet  
we choose sides and pit "us" against "them."  
Forgive our divisiveness. Forgive our exclusion.  
Forgive the ways we fail to seek and share your abundance.  
Help us build the Beloved Community you desire for us,  
where all your children may live in peace. Amen.***

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*GLORIA PATRI #581**

***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.***

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

You are beloved.  
***And you belong!***

—***Word***—

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST READING**

**2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17**

Bible p. 170, LG p. 220-221

The word of God for the people of God.

***Thanks be to God.***

**SECOND READING**

**Mark 4:26-34**

Bible p. 36, LG p. 47

The word of God for the people of God.

***Thanks be to God.***

**SERMON**

**Hidden Mysteries**

**Rev. Dr. Jerry Carpenter**

—***Response***—

**\*HYMN #39**

**Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

**\*Affirmation of Faith** (from the Belhar Confession)

***We believe***

- ***that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.***
- ***that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world;***
- ***that the credibility of this message is seriously affected and its beneficial work obstructed when it is proclaimed in a land which professes to be Christian, but in which the enforced separation of people on a racial basis promotes and perpetuates alienation, hatred and enmity;***
- ***that any teaching which attempts to legitimate such forced separation by appeal to the gospel, and is not prepared to venture on the road of obedience and reconciliation, but rather, out of prejudice, fear, selfishness and unbelief, denies in advance the reconciling power of the gospel, must be considered ideology and false doctrine.***