

# First Presbyterian Church Wichita, Kansas



September 3, 2017  
9:30 a.m.  
*Communion*

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**September 3, 2017**

**13th Sunday after Pentecost**

**9:30 a.m.**

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Prelude

*Adagio*

Tommaso Albinoni

Processional

Sierra Coldwater & Aidan Schulte

Greetings

\*Call to Worship

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**People: who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,

**People: make known his deeds among the peoples.**

Leader: Sing to Him, sing praises to Him,

**People: tell of all His wonderful works.**

Leader: Let us worship God.

\*Prayer of the Day

\*Hymn

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

No. 263

Call to Confession

Litany of Confession

Creator God, we praise you for your creation that you proclaimed “Very Good” on the sixth day. Creatures that bear your image were given the mandate to rule in your stead, to look after the well-being of all living things not just human beings. We were to tend the soil of the mythical garden call Eden and look after the animals as a shepherd would tend sheep. Words like “tend” and “keep” were the lexicon of our divine mandate in which work was fulfilling.

**But eating the forbidden fruit changed our relationship to you and to your creation. Words like “disobedience” and “curse” entered our lexicon for which life is hereafter characterized as East of Eden. Now, work is not only a divine mandate that leads to fulfillment but it is a burden that breaks us before it fulfills us. The land now yields thorns and thistles as well as bushels of wheat. Creation and all creatures, but especially creatures created in your image, need redeeming.**

Redeeming God, we confess that we have exploited neighbor and nature for our own ends rather than fulfilling your purpose for all life so that it flourishes. The command to be “fruitful” and “multiply” have been replaced by “make more

bricks without straw” to produce more... draining us of our energy and our humanity. We were created for work and to enjoy the fruits of our work but not be buried by our work. Save us from work that is demoralizing we pray.

**Sustainer God, may the joy of work return to us when we know that we were created for “good works.” May the power of your Spirit sustain us in the tasks we are called to do. This we humbly pray in the name of one who said, “Come unto me all who feel overburdened by their work and I will give you rest.” Amen.**

Silence

Choral Response

Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

\*Song of Thanksgiving

*Gloria Patri*

No. 579

\*The Peace

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

*(The children may come forward during the greeting.)*

Time with the Children

Tammi Schulte

First Reading

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:17-19

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:8-9

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Theology of Work in an Age of A.I.”  
The Rev. Dr. Brent O. Johnston

\*Affirmation of Faith

Apostles Creed  
(Traditional)

P.H. pg. 14

