



**Mountain Shadows
Presbyterian Church**

Centered in Christ, Caring for Community

**Sunday, September 9, 2018, 10:00 AM
The Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Gather in God's Name

*Thank you for silencing all mobile phones. * Stand as you are able. Please sign the fellowship pad, found on the chair on the center aisle. When all have signed, pass the pad back to the center.*

Prelude

Open My Eyes That I May See

Arr. Johnie Dean

Lighting of the Christ Candle and Opening Prayer

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions of Guests and Visitors

Introit

The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor

John Foley

Call to Worship (responsive, adapted from Isaiah 35:1-6)

Worship Co-Leader: Rev. Denise Edwards

Thirsty deserts will be glad;
barren lands will celebrate and blossom with flowers.
Deserts will bloom everywhere and sing joyful songs.
Everyone will see the wonderful splendor of the Lord our God.
The blind will see, and the ears of the deaf will be healed.
Those who were unable to walk will leap like deer;
tongues once silent will sing praise to God! Amen.

***Hymn # 664**

Morning Has Broken

Call to Confession (adapted from James 2:1-13)

My friends, if we treat some people better than others,
we have done wrong, and the Scriptures teach that we have sinned.
But even in judgment, God is merciful.
Let us pray honestly, inviting God's merciful judgment to rehabilitate us.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

O God, we did not mean to close our hearts to you.
We did not mean to withhold ourselves
from those who needed our kindness and help.
But we have been quick to judge our neighbors,
slow to show them generosity,
and reluctant to recognize our own shortcomings.
Open our hearts, minds, hands and lives, O God,
to receive your compassion, wisdom, help, and forgiveness.

(Please pause to offer silent prayer.)

Teacher and Healer, make us able to speak the truth and act with love.

Open our minds to learn from your Word.

Open our hearts to the people around us.

Open our lips to speak, and our hands to serve,
in ways that draw people to Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Quiet prayer and reflection)

Sung Response

Tune: 175 Lafferty

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and you shall find.
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!!

Words of Assurance (responsive)

God's judgment shows us the truth.
God's mercy relieves us of pain and shame.
Forgiven in Christ, we are freed by grace
to love God and our neighbors as ourselves. Amen!

*Sung Response

Tune: 2276

Glory to God in the highest!
Sing glory to God!
Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth!

*The Passing of Christ's Peace

The peace of Jesus Christ be with you...and also with you.
You may turn to your neighbor and share a sign of Christ's peace.

Choir Anthem

Open My Eyes/Amazing Grace
Mountain Shadows Choir

J. Manibusan/NEW BRITAIN

Proclaim God's Word

Gospel Reading

Mark 7:24-37

(N.T. pg. 40; lg. print pg. 52)

Response

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

Sermon

Speaking Plainly

Rev. Rachel Srubas

***Hymn of Affirmation # 766** *The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound*

Respond to God

Invitation to the Offering (based on Proverbs 22:9)

*Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.*

Now we have an opportunity to give thanks to God
by sharing a portion of our blessings.

Gladly, let us give our offerings.

The Offertory

When the Poor Ones

José Olivar & Miguel Manzano

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Christ, all people here below.
Praise Holy Spirit ever more.
Praise God, triune, whom we adore! Amen.

Prayer of Dedication (unison, based on Proverbs 22:1-2)

The Scriptures have taught us, O God:

*A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favor is better than silver or gold.*

*The rich and the poor have this in common:
the Lord is the maker of them all.*

**Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer of all people,
through these offerings may your church**

serve as a community of justice, inclusion, and love for all people.

We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Give Thanks to God

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

You are invited to speak your prayer requests first on behalf of the wider world; then for those close to you, and for yourself.

Give Thanks to God

The People's Prayer and 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.

Go in God's Name

*Hymn #610

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

The Worship has ended. The Service begins.