

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Shannon Jackson

The ways we use the wealth entrusted to us teach even more than our words. What messages do our offerings send to the world? Do they communicated our delight in knowing God and following the Christ?

OFFERTORY/SPECIAL MUSIC

Katie Maurer

"I Give You My Heart"
(Morgan/Arr. Tornquist)

RESPONSE

"Bless Thou the Gifts"

(p. 625)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

We offer the treasures of this world as a way of recalling all of us to a right relationship with you, O God, the source of all wisdom and truth. Your design for life is more to be desired than the finest gold. To learn from you and to serve you is our highest joy. May our offerings and our daily lives communicated this message. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

*CLOSING HYMN "They'll Know We Are Christian By Our Love"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Katie Maurer

"Other Duties as Assigned-Things We Aint"



Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 12, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Mary Hurley, Pastor
Katie Maurer, Director of Music Ministry
Kim Armstrong, Youth Director
ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2227 West Michigan Street, Evansville, IN 47712

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

WELCOME Shannon Jackson

PRELUDE Katie Maurer

RINGING OF THE BELLS

*OPENING HYMN "O Bless the Lord, My Soul!" (p. 35)

*CALL TO WORSHIP Shannon Jackson

Leader: Come away from dullness and complacency. Wake up! God is calling us to listen and learn.

People: The heavens are telling the glory of God. The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

Leader: How long will we refuse the wisdom God offers? How long will we ignore God's counsel and reproof?

People: The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of God are sure, making wise the simple.

Leader: Our waywardness separates us from God. Then, when we call on God, we hear no answer.

People: We gather to renew our relationship with God. We seek enlightenment and the revival of our souls.

*INVOCATION (in unison)

God of all wisdom, renew our sense of awe and wonder as we gather before you, the Source of all knowledge. Make your Word known to us, and stretch out your hand to touch us. Draw us away from our own devices that we may truly listen to the witness of all creation speaking of wonders we have ignored. Give us eyes to see beauty in all around us. Align us with truth and righteousness. Quiet our scoffing and awaken our trust. Show us the disciplines we need to stay in touch with you each day. Amen.

*RESPONSE— Gloria Patri

CALL TO CONFESSION

Shannon Jackson

People of God, the scriptures remind us that we are accountable to our Creator. Instead, in our times of panic, we put God on trial, wondering why we cannot find the help we seek. Shutting our eyes and ears to God becomes a habit we cannot break in times of desperation. That is why, together, we come to God, asking to be cleared of secret faults and to detect the error of our ways in time to turn around, letting God's Word reach our hearts.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

God of all worlds, we confess our arrogance in turning away from the knowledge you offer and the relationship with us that you desire. We make light of your commandments and scoff at discipline and boundaries as if they did not apply to us. Our tongues reveal our ignorance before the vastness of your truth. The words we speak in error spread poison that cannot be contained. Our waywardness is destroying us. Our complacency before evil, within us and all around, threatens life itself. O God, we cry out for forgiveness. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Shannon Jackson

We eat the fruits of our way and are sated with our own devices. Words of confession are not enough to break the patterns of complacency and self-justification that separate us from God. Thankfully, our Creator knows our honest intent. If we truly turn from our insolent, undisciplined ways, a new way is opening up for us, and God welcomes us as partners in the gospel. IN keeping God's ordinances, there is unexpected reward.

CONTEMPORARY SONG "If We Are the Body"

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 1: 20-33 (NRSV)

Shannon Jackson

SERMON

"Other Duties as Assigned—Things We Ain't"

Rick Hobbs

Continued —>

(* All who are able, please stand when noted.)