

*Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church  
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*



*Live Streaming Worship 10 AM  
17 September 2023*

# *Order for Worship*

## *In Preparation for Worship*

### **Prelude**

### **Meditation**

Compassionate mercy defines the ministry of Jesus, as it does the character of God, and it is to be emulated by persons and communities of faith.

John Carroll – Union Seminary

The economy of forgiveness Jesus announces is congruent neither with the values and assumptions that govern human economies nor the relentless pursuit of power and privilege that drives our daily social relationships. The pursuit of unlimited forgiveness (Matthew 18:21-22) requires a definitive break from the tacit arrangements that govern everyday life, whether ancient or modern.

Stanley Saunders – Columbia Seminary

### **Welcome!**

*We are so glad you are here! If you are new or visiting, please sign the guest pad in the pews so that we may get to know you better and send you our e-newsletter. Please join us for refreshments during our Fellowship Hour after the service.*

Moments of Silence to Prepare for Worship

*\*Please stand if you are able. Congregation reads responses in bold print.*

## Call to Worship

Carolyn Layburn

Praise the Lord, O my soul.

**With all that is within me, praise his holy name.**

Praise the Lord, O my soul.

**Do not forget all his kind deeds. He is the one who forgives all your sins, who heals all your diseases, who delivers your life from the Pit.**

It is God who crowns you with his loyal love and compassion, satisfies your life with good things, so your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**The Lord does what is fair and executes justice for all the oppressed.**

The Lord is compassionate and merciful; he is patient and demonstrates great loyal love.

**He does not always accuse and does not stay angry.**

He does not deal with us as our sins deserve or repay us as our misdeeds deserve.

**Praise the Lord, O my soul.**

## Opening Prayer

Carolyn Layburn

Loving God, we gather once again, to lift our hearts in praise and prayer. We ask you to accept our worship and praise and lead us in our quest to be faithful in a world that is often not very fair. Enable us to show others the same generosity and compassion you have shown us. Amen.

## \*Hymn #33

*Praise to the Lord*

LlanFair

## An Invitation to Confession

Carolyn Layburn

If we say that we have not sinned we are not paying attention. As much as we would like, we fall considerably short of the standards that have been set for us. If we are to thrive, as God intends, we need to admit our mistakes and our failures, ask to be forgiven, and place our whole lives into God's gracious care.

Let us pray together.

## Prayer of Confession

Carolyn Layburn

**Compassionate God, when we pray we ask you to forgive us as we forgive those who do wrong to us. Somehow we miss the fact that this is a dangerous request. We don't catch the nuance here.**

**We know we fail more times than we care to admit, and we want to be forgiven for each and every one of our failures. What we miss is that we are asking you to forgive us in the same way we forgive other folks' wrongdoing. So, if we don't forgive them are we asking you not to forgive us?**

**That is not what we intended. Forgive us and give us the ability to forgive others as generously as you have forgiven us so that they may see us as children of your blessings and let us live together in peace.**

## A Time of Silence

*Please take this time in silence to offer your own prayers of confession-confessing your need for God and naming those barriers that keep you from knowing life.*

## Assurance of Grace

Dr. N. Scott Cupp

## \*Gloria #583

*Glory to God, Glory to God, glory in the highest!  
Glory to God, Glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!*

## \*Passing of the Peace

*Since God has made peace with us,  
let us make peace with each other.  
Peace be with you all.  
**And also with you.***

*Please share the peace with one another*

## **Children's Sermon**

Followed by "Jesus Loves Me"

## **Prayer for Illumination**

**Carolyn Layburn**

Open the eyes of our hearts Lord. Open the eyes of our hearts so that we may see you as you truly are. Enable us to understand what it is you expect from us as we listen to your word and help us to be your faithful people. Amen.

## **Scripture Lesson**

**Carolyn Layburn**

### **Epistle**

Matthew 18:21-35

New English Translation

Peter came to him and said, "Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother who sins against me? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, I tell you, but seventy-seven times!"

"For this reason, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his slaves. As he began settling his accounts, a man who owed 10,000 talents was brought to him. Because he was not able to repay it, the king ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, children, and whatever he possessed, and repayment to be made.

"Then the slave threw himself to the ground before him, saying, 'Be patient with me, and I will repay you everything.' The lord had compassion on that slave and released and forgave the debt.

"Later, that same slave found one of his fellow slaves who owed him 100 silver coins. So he grabbed him by the throat and started to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe me!' Then his fellow slave threw himself down and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will repay you.' But he refused. Instead, he went out and threw him in prison until he repaid the debt.

“When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were very upset and went and told their lord everything that had taken place. Then his lord called the first slave and said to him, ‘Evil slave! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me!

“Should you not have shown mercy to your fellow slave, just as I showed it to you?’ In anger, his lord turned him over to the prison guards to torture him until he repaid all he owed.

“So also my heavenly Father will do to you if each of you does not forgive your brother from your heart.”

**\*Hymn #754**

*Help Us Accept Each Other*

Baronita

**Morning Lesson**      Romans 14:1-12 Contemporary English Version      **Dr. N. Scott Cupp**

Welcome all the Lord's followers, even those whose faith is weak. Don't criticize them for having beliefs that are different from yours. Some think it is all right to eat anything, while those whose faith is weak will eat only vegetables. But you should not criticize others for eating or for not eating. After all, God welcomes everyone.

What right do you have to criticize someone else's servants? Only their Lord can decide if they are doing right, and the Lord will make sure that they do right.

Some of the Lord's followers think one day is more important than another. Others think all days are the same. But each of you should make up your own mind. Any followers who count one day more important than another day do it to honor their Lord. And any followers who eat meat give thanks to God, just like the ones who don't eat meat.

Whether we live or die, it must be for God, rather than for ourselves. Whether we live or die, it must be for the Lord. Alive or dead, we still belong to the Lord. This is because Christ died and rose to life to be the Lord of the dead and the living.

Why do you criticize other followers of the Lord? Why do you look down on them? The day is coming when God will judge all of us. In the Scriptures, God says, “I swear by my very life that everyone will kneel down and praise my name!” And so, each of us must give an account to God for what we do.

**Meditation:** Settling Accounts

**Dr. N. Scott Cupp**

## **Offertory Invitation**

**\*Response Hymn #708 (1, 2)**

*We Give Thee but Thine Own*

Schumann

## **\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Amazing Creator, you have given us so much and we are in awe of it all. And we are amazed that you have thought enough of us to put us in charge of everything – asking us to care for it as if we were you.**

**We bring back a portion of what we have done as a way of showing you what we have done and as a way of saying ‘thank you.’ We ask you to bless our offerings and our labors. Amen.**

## **Announcements and Prayer Concerns**

### **Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

... We pray these in the spirit of our Lord who taught us to pray ...

**Our Father in heaven, your name is Holy. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our sin, in the same way, we forgive those who have done wrong to us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn #316**

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

Twenty-Fourth

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**

&

***Welcome to our worship at Pebble Hill!***

*If you are with us for the first time, we hope that you find our worship  
meaningful and our fellowship inviting.*

*Please reach out to Stuart or Nancy Byrne to learn more about Pebble Hill Church.*

**Church Staff**

Rev. Stuart Hayes, Pastor

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***Please keep in your prayers this week:***

- ❖ We pray for Shirley Weimar as she prepares for a heart procedure on Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.
- ❖ We continue to pray for Elizabeth Metz's son Paul, and for Elizabeth, who shoulders decisions regarding his care.
- ❖ We pray for all caregivers in hospitals, urgent care facilities, long term care facilities and those who provide at-home care.
- ❖ We pray for the countries that have been recently affected by massive flooding.
- ❖ We grieve with the families of victims of hate crimes.
- ❖ We pray for the Ukrainian and Russian people who continue to endure conflict and violence.
- ❖ We pray for the Elders and Deacons.
- ❖ We pray for the PNC.



**Announcements**

The next Samaritan Center serving date is Saturday, September 30th, 12:30 - 3:00.  
There is a sign-up sheet on the Mission bulletin board.

Peace Making - The Special Offering for Peace and Global Witness will be collected on October 1st, World Communion Sunday.

## The Week at Pebble Hill 9/17-9/23

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship</b>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Coffee and Fellowship Hour – Atrium</b>
	2:00 pm	Vision & Strategy Meeting – Forum
<b>Monday</b>	4:30 pm	Bluebirds – KR
	<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>PHPC Women’s Dinner – King David’s</b>
	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>PNC</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	9:30 am	Bluebirds – KR
	4:30 pm	Bluebirds – KR
	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Session – Forum</b>
	6:30 pm	Syracuse Chorale – FH
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:30 am	Bluebirds – KR
	4:30 pm	Bluebirds – KR
<b>Thursday</b>	9:30 am	Bluebirds – KR
	4:30 pm	Bluebirds – KR
	5:00 pm	Salt City Ukulele – FH
	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>
<b>Friday</b>	9:30 am	Bluebirds – KR
	10:30 am	Pastors Gathering – Lounge
<b>Saturday</b>	9:00 am	Bluebirds – KR
	9:00 am	Schola Cantorum Pre Concert Rehearsal – Sanctuary
	1:00 pm	Schola Cantorum Pre Concert Rehearsal – Sanctuary

### **PEBBLE HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 am–1:00 pm

5299 Jamesville Rd., DeWitt, NY 13214

(315) 446-0960 ♦ [www.phpchurch.org](http://www.phpchurch.org)

**THANK YOU TO TODAY'S ASSISTANTS:**

KAREN AND DAN RADCLIFFE – USHERS

THE REV. DR. N. SCOTT CUPP – VISITING PASTOR

THE REV. STUART HAYES – BRIDGE PASTOR

BETTE KAHLER – DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

CAROLYN LAYBURN – LITURGIST

*This morning's flowers were given by Carol Ganotis and Nancy Stewart.  
Thank you.*

*THANKS TO THOSE WHO ARE LIVE STREAMING THIS MORNING'S SERVICE.*

