

**First Presbyterian Church – Lake Charles**  
*6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – July 12, 2020*

**Prelude** *“Listen Up”* Althoff/Kauflin

**Welcome and Announcements**

+ *Love the Lord* Brewster

*“Love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.” (Luke 10:27)*

+ CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) **Psalm 119**

Accept our offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach us your ordinances.

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.**

We are severely afflicted; give us life, O LORD, according to your word.

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.**

Your decrees are our heritage forever; they are the joy of our hearts.

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.**

+ *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* # 2158 (STF)

+ **Prayer of Adoration:** As we enter into this holy time of worship, O Lord our God, help us to truly fulfill the words we have spoken in Scripture and song. May your joy truly be in our hearts. Teach us. Give us life. May your Word be a lamp unto our wayward feet, a light unto our fearful path. Inspire us to love you with even more of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. May our plea be that simple: Just a closer walk with Thee; let it be, dear Lord, let it be. Amen.

**Call to Confession and Prayer**

Faithful God, your word falls on hardened ground when our worldly anxiety and attachment to wealth crowd out your place in our lives. Too often we let our concern for the path we travel obscure the One who truly shows us the way. We permit the birds of evil to snatch away our good intentions; the thorns of pride to pierce hearts that yearn for you. Forgive our frail and human ways and nourish within us a spirit of trust and faithfulness, for you are our hope for deliverance. Hear us now as we ask you to ‘weed out’ all in our lives that inhibits our growth in you...

Friends, believe the good news:

**In Jesus Christ, the Gardener who cultivates a fruitful life, we are forgiven! Amen!**

**Hymn of Illumination** *“Spirit of the Living God”* # 322 (PH)

**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

**Pew Bible, N.T., p. 13**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

**Message**

**“Thoughts from a ‘Sow-boat’”**

Rev. Chan Willis

**+ We Believe...**

from *“The Confession of 1967”*

**“The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness through the Holy Scriptures, which are received and obeyed as the word of God written.**

**The Scriptures are not a witness among others, but the witness without parallel.**

**God instructs his church and equips it for mission through preaching and teaching... when they are carried out in fidelity to the Scriptures, and dependence upon the Holy Spirit, the people hear the word of God and accept and follow Christ.**

**...Personal witness requires disciplined study of both the Bible and the contemporary world.”**

**Dedication of Our Offerings**

**+ Doxology**

**# 592 (PH)**

**Prayer of Dedication:** You call us to sow your word in all times and places, even when the ground is hard and shallow. For faith is a gift that comes from you, and fruitful discipleship is the work of your Spirit in us. May the gifts we offer this day spread the good news of life abundant in Christ, especially using us as ‘cultivators’ of the gifts we’ve been given. Amen.

**Sharing of Prayer Concerns 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

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

**+ *Word of God Incarnate***

**# 327 (PH)**

**+ Charge and Benediction**

**+ Postlude**