

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 22, 2024

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Meditation before Worship

Lord, be with us this day, helping us to put our priorities in order so that we may faithfully serve you by serving your people. Heal our spirits. Enable us to follow your ways all the days of our lives. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

“Blessed Assurance”

arr. Robert A. Hobby

Welcome and Announcements

Introit “Healer of Our Every Ill”

Marty Haugen, 1986

(refrain) Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,

Give us peace beyond our fear,

And hope beyond our sorrow.

You who know our fears and sadness,

grace us with your peace and gladness;

Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. (refrain)

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Jesus calls us to servant ministry.

People: We must be willing to help others, not counting the cost or rewards.

Leader: Pretense, disharmony, & greed have no place in discipleship.

People: Serving God means receiving each person as though they were a beloved child.

Leader: Lord, help us to truly become your disciples.

People: Create in us hearts for ministries of compassion and kindness.

Amen.

***Hymn**

“Jesus Loves Me”

#188

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

God of patience and mercy, we come to you, offering “lip service” to serving you, but when things get difficult, when we are called to do something which is hard for us, we shy away from the duty and the opportunity. We turn our back on service out of fear of failure. Forgive us, gracious Lord. Heal our fears and our weaknesses. Strengthen us and give us courage to truly be your disciples, not counting the rewards, but rejoicing in the work. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen (*Silent prayer of confession*)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn**

“Gloria Patri”

#581

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children’s Sermon

First Scripture Reading

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8

Choir Anthem “O Master Let Me Walk with Thee” arr. Tom Birchwood

O Master, let me walk with thee In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me thy secret, help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.
Teach me thy patience, still with thee in closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.
In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way,
In peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 9:30-37

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Are You Smart or Wise”

Pastor Steven A. Watters

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Hymn**

“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”

#395

Prayers of the People 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.

Invitation to Offering

***Response**

“Give Thanks”

#647

***Prayer of Dedication**

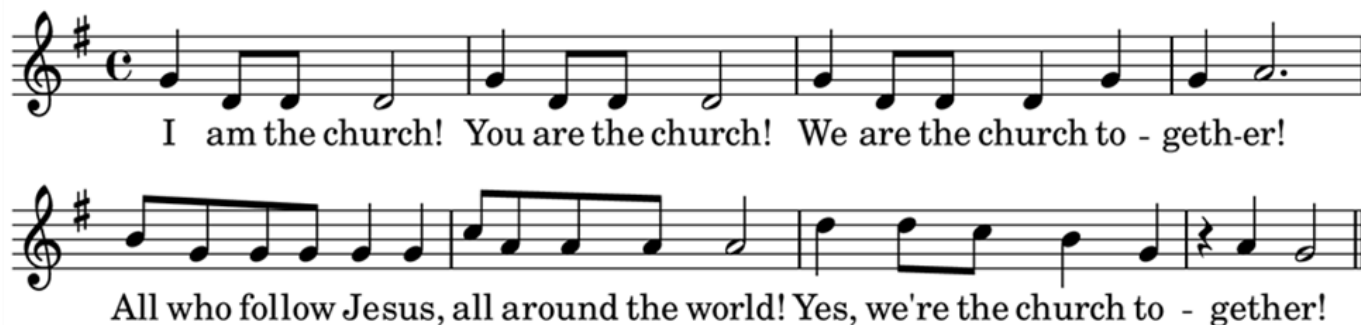
The Sending of God's People

***Closing Hymn** “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

#649

***Charge and Blessing**

*Congregational Response “We Are the Church”



I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!

All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!

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*Postlude “Now Thank We All Our God” arr. Michael Burkhardt

Pastors: Steven A. Watters
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Liturgist: Kelly Armfelt

Flowers: Gloria Miller

The flowers are given by Gloria Miller in memory of Tammi Herschell, mother, sister & daughter who we will forever miss.

Kelly Armfelt is a member of the Generation to Generation Commission, Chancel Choir and Sunday School teacher at FPC. She loves teaching and learning alongside her kindergarten crew at Bailey Elementary in the Dublin City School District. Kelly also volunteers each week at H.E.L.P. House Community Outreach and the London Public Library. Her favorite pastimes include being Mimi to Cooper (5) and Mila (4), harassing the tenors and basses in the back row of the choir loft, bicycling and getting lost, and making Tom Lloyd laugh!