

*Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.*

**16th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**July 23, 2023**

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

## **Silent Prayer of Preparation**

*Amen.*

## **Gathering Music**

### **The Gathering of God's People**

## **Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship**

“Earth and All Stars”

arr. Michael Burkhardt

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **\*Call to Worship** (Based on Psalm 33:1-5)

Leader: Weeds and seeds, growing together.

**People: Each will influence the other.**

Leader: What will we learn from the weeds?

**People: Trials and tribulations, choices that have not always worked out. Weeds can teach us about perseverance — consider the tough dandelion plant pushing its way up through the pavement — for some it's just a weed, but for others there are lessons to be learned.**

Leader: What will be gained from seeds?

**People: Inside each one of us is a special person, waiting to be nurtured to wholeness. Each seed is unique; each has its own gifts to offer.**

Leader: In God's garden, God's love extends to both – asking both to consider what each has to offer to a hurting world.



## **Second Scripture Reading**

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## **Sermon**

“The Grace of Doing Nothing!”

Pastor Steve 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**

“In an Age of Twisted Values”

#345

### **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**

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

#367

### **\*Charge and Blessing**

## \*Congregational Response

### “We Are the Church”

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!".

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## \*Postlude

### “What God Ordains Is Good Indeed”

arr. J. Wayne Kerr

**Pastors:** Steven A. Watters

**Liturgist:** Harriet Dana

**Acolyte:** Nate Angel

**Music Director:** Thomas Lloyd

**Organist:** Carol Welk

**Flutist:** Nik Engelhart

**Oboist:** Thomas Lloyd

*Harriet (Harri) Dana is a wife, mother, & grandmother. She and Bob moved to Choctaw Lake in 2011 after living in Columbus for 40 years. She is an elder, co-chairing the Property Committee with Pam Dennewitz. Harriet is passionate about flowers and can be seen on a regular basis working in the flower beds around First Presbyterian.*

*Harriet is also known for her many travel adventures which began at the age of 11 when her father was transferred from Sunburst, Montana, to Santiago, Cuba, during the Castro revolution. Her father was subsequently transferred to Lockport, Illinois, where she attended high school. She is a graduate of Beloit College and has taken courses at The Ohio State University where she was an administrative associate for 22 years.*

*Bob & Harri have been team leaders for Marriage Encounter and Kairos Prison Ministry. Bob and Harri recently returned from a trip to Portugal and northern Spain where Bob sang in 4 cathedrals with the First Community Church Choir.*