

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 1, 2024

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

Meditation before Worship

Lord of mercy and abundant love, we have gathered here this day to hear your healing words of compassion and to be transformed by your love. Help us to be more faithful servants in our thoughts, words, and deeds. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

arr. J. Wayne Kerr

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: God has given us this day for praise!

People: Praise be to God for this most generous gift!

Leader: God has given his Son to us, that we might learn ways of peace and mercy.

People: Praise be to God for this most generous gift! Let the words of God's own Son Jesus enter our hearts and transform our lives!

Leader: Come, let us worship this great God of abundant mercy and love!

People: Let our songs, our words, and our thoughts reflect God's healing and restoring love. Amen.

***Hymn**

“As a Chalice Cast of Gold”

#429

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

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

God of light, we confess that we live in the shadows of hypocrisy and self-righteousness. We honor you with our lips, but we have not served you in our hearts. We are satisfied with human traditions and norms and avoid your liberating truth. We have confused meekness with weakness, holiness with social conformity, and anger with righteousness. Forgive us, we pray. By the power of your word save us from the prison of our conceit so that we may serve you with sincere hearts. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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 1:17-27

Piano Solo

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

arr. Lloyd Larson

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The Heart’s Intent”

Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***Invitation to Offering**

***Response**

“Give Thanks”

#647

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

(We will be receiving communion by coming forward to one of the two stations on each side of the communion table. Please exit the pews to the center aisle and return to the pews from the outside aisles. An elder or deacon will be available to serve communion to those who wish to remain seated. Gluten-free bread can be found on the communion table.)

***Invitation to the Lord’s Table**

***Hymn of Invitation**

“Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts”

#494

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: Let us pray. Beloved, may God be with you!

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts, Beloved of God.

People: We lift them to the One who loves us beyond all expectations.

Pastor: God's Beloved, let us offer our thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

People: Our voices unite in joy and thanks to the One who brings us hope and healing.

Pastor: Our hearts overflow ... singing of your glory forever:

People: Holy, holy, holy are you, Lover of righteousness, all creation overflows with praise for you. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is your Beloved who anoints us with unexpected grace. Hosanna in the highest!

Pastor: Look, he comes! ... live for him in grateful praise and service:

People: Christ was born, hearing your morning song.

Christ died, doing your will even in the moments of his despair.

Christ is risen, in fulfillment of your own purpose.

Christ will come, the first fruits of our resurrection.

Pastor: Generous God ... God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Almighty God, during this worship service, our hearts burned within us while the Holy Spirit opened to us the scriptures. Then, we recognized Christ in the breaking of the bread. Now, help us as we get up and go and tell the others what we have seen. Help us go forth in the name of Christ. Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia. Amen.

The Sending of God's People

***Closing Hymn**

“Just as I Am, without One Plea”

#442

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Response

“We Are the Church”

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major 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!".

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

“I Sing the Almighty Power of God”

arr. J. Wayne Kerr

Pastors: Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd
Organist: Carol Welk

Liturgist: Kelly Armfelt

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!