

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 8, 2024

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

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Make your face to shine upon us, O God, and be pleased to dwell in our presence. We gather before you to praise you. Our ears have been opened to the sounds of angels singing hosannas; our tongues have been loosed to shout, "Alleluia! Amen!" We listen attentively for your word, which brings wisdom. We wait expectantly to confess anew our allegiance in faith. Make your face to shine upon us, O God, and be pleased with our worship. 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

Introit "Call to Prayer"

Thurlow Weed, 2009

God of all Creation, hear us when we pray;

Grant to us thy Peace, hold us in thy sway.

***Call to Worship (Psalm 146)**

Leader: Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

People: I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Leader: Happy are those whose hope is in the LORD their God, who keeps faith forever;

People: who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

Leader: The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD open the eyes of the blind.

People: The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; The LORD loves the righteous.

Leader: The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow.

People: The LORD will reign forever, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

***Hymn**

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

#620

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

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

Almighty and compassionate God, every day, in our desire to attain our wants, avoid discomfort, and shun those we do not know or love, we show ourselves to be unworthy of your gifts of life. Of this we are sorely aware, and we ask your power to renew us in body and spirit, that we will be able, through your help, to walk in the way that you intend for us. Forgive us and lead us. 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 2:1-10, 14-17

Choir Anthem

“Consecration”

Frederick Chatfield, 2010

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.

Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.

Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee.
Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from Thee.
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use every power as Thou shalt choose.
Take my will, and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee.

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 7:24-37

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The Persistence of Faith”

Dr. Mark A. Johnson

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

A Brief Statement of Faith (11.4)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

***Hymn**

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

#435

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Hear us, O God,

People: for your mercy is great.

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

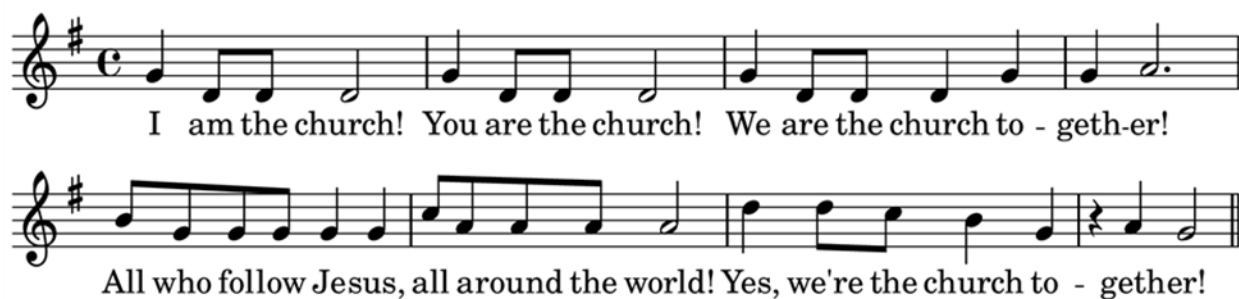
*Prayer of Dedication

The Sending of God's People

*Closing Hymn "In Christ There Is No East or West" #318

*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 "I Sing the Almighty Power of God" arr. J. Wayne Kerr

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

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!