

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

**26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**September 29, 2024**

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

## **Meditation before Worship**

*Gracious Lord, you have shown us by your example what it means to deny ourselves and take up our cross. Thank you for bringing about our salvation. Despite your willingness to surrender your life upon the cross, we confess that we are reluctant to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow you. Because we are selfish and weak, we are delighted that our salvation does not depend upon us, but upon you, for you are the Messiah. You are the way, the truth, and the life. We come to you, O Lord, for we have nowhere else to go. Accept our praise. Amen.*

## **Gathering Music**

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

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

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

arr. Dale Wood

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Minute for Mission**

Peace & Global Witness Offering

Brenda Engle

### **Introit** “When In Our Music God is Glorified”

C.V. Stanford, 1904

When in our music God is glorified,  
And adoration leaves no room for pride,  
It is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia! Amen

### **\*Call to Worship** (*Psalm 116*)

Leader: I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my  
supplications.

People: **Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him  
as long as I live.**

Leader: Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.

People: **Let us walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.**

**\*Hymn**

“To God Be the Glory”

#634

## **The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Call to Confession**

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

**Holy God, we say that we follow you, but our actions, or inaction, prove otherwise. We live for what we want, not for what you want. We have failed to follow Jesus’ example of selflessness. Instead, we have looked after our own interests and ignored the needs of our neighbors. Turn our hearts. Forgive us, O God, and instill new and right spirits within us. 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 5:13-20

**Choir Anthem**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Andrew Carter, 2001

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:  
(refrain) Father, unto thee we raise

This, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flower,  
Sun and moon and stars of light, (refrain)

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above,  
For all gentle thoughts and mild, (refrain)

For each perfect gift of thine  
To our world so freely given,  
Graces human and divine,  
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven: (refrain)

## **Second Scripture Reading**

Mark 8:27-38

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## **Sermon**

“Following Jesus”

Dr. Mark A. Johnson

## **The Response to the Word**

### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

Philippians 2:5-11

**Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

### **\*Hymn**

“Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said”

#718

### **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**

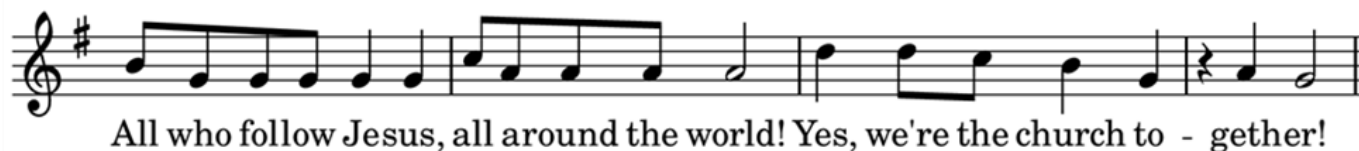
## The Sending of God's People

**\*Closing Hymn** "Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"

#757

**\*Charge and Blessing**

**\*Congregational Response** "We Are the Church"



Words and Music: Richard K. Avery and Donald S. Marsh  
Words and Music © 1972 Hope Publishing Company  
Used by Permission. CCLI License # 1203910

**\*Postlude** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" arr. Diane Bish

---

**Pastor:** Dr. Mark A. Johnson

**Music Director:** Thomas Lloyd

**Liturgist:** Kelly Armfelt

**Organist:** Carol Welk

*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!*