

First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024

10:15 a.m.

PRELUDE

Andante Cantabile, from 'Symphony IV'

Charles-Marie Widor

Eric J. Gastier, organ

WELCOME

Reverend Erin Guzmán

MINISTRY FOCUS

FPC Cinco de Mayo Potluck and Annual Congregational Meeting

Carol Gates

CHORAL INTROIT

Psalm 150

John Harper

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Carol Gates

One: Come and sit with me; we shall study the word and the world, guided by the Spirit.

All: Together we shall grow in curiosity and faith-seeking understanding.

One: Come and kneel with me; we shall break bread and open our hearts.

All: Together we shall be fed, with our cups overflowing in compassion for one another.

One: Come and walk with me; we shall part the waters and resist the currents that seek to drag us away from each other.

All: Together we shall risk, and, behold, we shall be transformed.

*PRAYER +

One: Spirit of Life, we come to you seeking greater meaning in our lives, greater purpose in our work, greater hope in our world. Call us into relationship with our neighbors near and far who are different than us. Call us to seek out those whose world experiences challenge our own, so that we might seek you in the face of others. Call us into your ways of love by encouraging us to share our lives with others. Guide us so that we do not just lend a helping hand when it is convenient for us, but that we reach out to forge meaningful relationships. Hold us to this call on our lives:

All: To love all our neighbors, and all who are in our world, as ourselves, and as you do. May your justice-seeking love reign forever, Amen

*HYMN 36

For the Fruit of All Creation

AR HYDY NOS

CONFESSION ++

One: Wonderous God . . .

All: Lover of lion and lizard, cedar and cactus, raindrop and river, we praise you for the splendor of the world! We thank you, that woven throughout the tapestry of earth are the varied threads of human diversity. Created in your image, we are of many colors, cultures, ages, gender and sexual identities. Different and alike, we are your beloved people. And though we often celebrate this diversity through words, we also sometimes fear it in practice . . . At times we are perplexed about

what we don't understand or what makes us uncomfortable. Free us, we pray, from fears of difference that divide and wound us. Move us to dismantle our attitudes and systems of prejudice. Renew our commitment to make this a household of faith for all people — gay, bisexual, lesbian, transgender, and straight — that all who worship and minister here may know the grace and challenge of faith. In our life together, grant us minds and hearts eager to learn, reluctant to judge, and responsive to the leading of your loving Spirit.

Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.

Gracious God, hear our prayers. **Amen**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

Family of Faith, hear the Good News: It is never too late to re-commit ourselves to that which God has called us . . . loving all of our neighbors as ourselves. With God's help, may we feel the assurance that we can rise to this challenge, each and every day. We are seen. We are loved. We are forgiven. **Thanks be to God! Amen**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you . . . **And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Amy Baxstrom

Following the Children's Moment, children are invited to go upstairs with Amy to Joy Worship.

ANTHEM

To God Be the Glory

Johann Sebastian Bach

SCRIPTURE

Acts 8:26-40

Pew Bible page 119

SERMON

Reverend Erin Guzmán, Henry J. Copeland Interfaith Chaplain, College of Wooster

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

Through our monetary gifts, we offer something of our work and ourselves to God.

OFFERTORY

Prelude VII in c-minor

Karol Szymanowski

Anya Smith, pianist

*DOXOLOGY 607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Guzmán

**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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

*HYMN 401

Here in This Place

GATHER US IN

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Jaques Lemmens

* Asterisk indicates places in the service to stand.

+ Adapted from words written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell

++ Adapted from "Wonderous God," written by Rev. Ann B. Day

First Presbyterian Church is a Christian community dedicated to showing God's love through worship, study, social justice, outreach, and fellowship.

**More Light Church and Member of Covenant Network
Earth Care Congregation and Matthew 25 Church**

The Mission of More Light Presbyterians: Following the risen Christ, and seeking to make the Church a true community of hospitality, the mission of More Light Presbyterians is to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people in the life, ministry, and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society.

The Mission of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians is to strengthen the church of Jesus Christ, with the help of God's grace. We are called to achieve this goal by furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, and by working for the unity of the PC(USA).

Earth Care Pledge: Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

The Mission of the Matthew 25 Church: Matthew 25:31–46 calls us to actively engage the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. We commit ourselves to congregational vitality by acting boldly and compassionately to end systemic poverty and structural racism, serving people who are oppressed, imprisoned, poor.



QR (Quick Response) Code for Direct Donations and Contributions —
the Code can be read by your smartphone and will land you on the giving page of our website where you can “Give Now” or set up a recurring donation.

First Presbyterian Church
621 College Ave., Wooster, OH 44691
330-264-9420 www.firstpreswooster.org Facebook: facebook.com/FPCWooster

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday Greeters:	April 28 – Don & Karen James	May 5 – Jim & Cindy Webster	
Sunday Sextons:	April 28 – Megan Armour	May 5 – Mattie Dunlap	
Sunday Ushers:	April 28 – Deb & Rick Maxwell, Carol McKiernan, Diana Rice		
Sunday, April 28	9:00 am Sunday School	9:45 am Fellowship	10:15 am Worship
Monday, April 29	9:30 am Staff Meeting	12:00 pm Rotary	5:30 pm Meals for All
	6:00 pm WACPAC	6:00 pm Wayne County Children's Chorus Rehearsal	
Tuesday, April 30	9:30 am Bible Study	6:00 pm Boy Scouts	6:00 pm WACPAC
Wed., May 1	10:00 am Life Memory Café		7:00 pm Session
Thursday, May 2	6:00 pm WACPAC	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm Book Group
Friday, May 3	10:45 am Parkinson's Network		11:30 am Friday Fellowship
Saturday, May 4	9:30 am Al-Anon	1:00 pm Wayne County Children's Chorus Performance	
Sunday, May 5	9:00 am Sunday School	9:45 am Fellowship	10:15 am Worship
	11:30 am FPC Cinco de Mayo Potluck and Annual Congregational Meeting		
	7:00 pm Central Christian School Choir Concert		