

First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2020

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



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

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

PRELUDE

Song Without Words

Paul Winchester

Eric J. Gastier, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP +

Paula Abrecht and Beth Taylor

One From north and south, from east and west, we come:

God's people called to God's table, where simple grace nourishes us.

All: From down the street to across town, from single households to apartment dwellers:

God's people are called to community, where we live and serve one another.

One: From every class, every race, every status; from little ones with dreams
to elders with overflowing hearts:

All: God's people are called to witness to God's hope, to offer peace to a shattered world.

PRAYER OF THE DAY +

Help us, O God, to recognize the times in which we live and to choose to live faithfully.

Grant us courage to stand with and speak for those at risk.

As we are able, help us to preserve community, extend hospitality,
and redeem the time you entrust into our hands. **Amen**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

One: Forgiving God, we confess that we are a fearful people.

Too often, we live in the midst of the abundance of your world
and are afraid that there is not enough.

We covet what little our neighbors have. We hoard the good news of your creation.

We make idols of scarcity and want in order to control the world's resources.

All: Forgive us.

**Gently ease our grip and open our hands and our eyes that we, trusting in your grace,
may truly live out the heart and soul of the Gospel:
to love you by loving our neighbors as ourselves.**

Here each worshiper may offer personal, silent prayer.

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

Spirit's presence is in us, between us, and embracing us always.

Through the unity of this Spirit, we are shaped into a community
that lives to fulfill love's expectations.

In the joy of the forgiven, let us live into that hope for ourselves and for the world.

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

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 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

MUSICAL OFFERING

Come, Labor On

T. Tertius Noble, arr. John Ferguson

Choral Scholars: Annika Balish, Emily Hasecke, Will McCullough, Carter Rogers

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 20:1-16

SERMON

Laboring in the Kingdom of God

HYMN 716 (see next page for music)

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

BEACH SPRING

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

. . . *and thanksgiving may follow, from 'Rubrics'*

Dan Locklair

+ Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*. Facebook Link: <https://www.facebook.com/FPCWooster/>

The flowers are dedicated with gratitude to First Responders and all the many "helpers" in our community, including the custodial staff of First Presbyterian Church who work hard to keep our church clean and safe for our use.

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 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). The Covenant Network of Presbyterians calls the church to bear a unified witness to generous hospitality and faithful justice.

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 (LGBTQIA+) people in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society.

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.