

# First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



## NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 25, 2021

PRELUDE

*Sicilienne*

*Maria Theresia von Paradies*

Eric J. Gastier, organ

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

INTRODUCTION TO OUR MUSIC

Eric Gastier

CALL TO WORSHIP +

Joan Firmin

One: Here we see the richness of God's love made real  
in the gifts of friendship, grace, and faith.

**All: God's presence keeps us going and gives us more than we need.**

One: Come closer, search deeply, expect to receive grace—and then some.

**All: God makes a place for all and gives to all with generous abundance.**

**Let us live with hope and trust in God and worship God abundantly.**

PRAYER +

Gracious God, we gather in hope that you will open our eyes to the needs of our world,  
open our hearts to the unfolding wonders of your grace,  
open our lives to be used as your servants  
and bearers of your forgiveness and reconciliation,  
messengers of your loving welcome and peace. **Amen**

HYMN 30 (bulletin page 3)

*O God, in a Mysterious Way*

*DUNDEE*

CONFESSION +

One: Gracious God, we know that you love us and that you call us to fullness of life,  
but around us and within us we see the brokenness of the world and of our ways.

**All: Our successes leave us empty; our progress does not satisfy;  
our prosperous land is not the promised land of our longing.**

**Forgive our willful neglect of your ways,**

**our insensitivity to the needs of others,**

**our lack of grace and compassion,**

**our failure to nurture the spirit of truth that is within us.**

**Restore to us the hope of reconciliation, healing, and wholeness.**

*Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.*

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

**One:** Here, in this moment and in this place, the Spirit of Gentleness moves in our midst. Mercy, hope, and joy are the gifts of God to each and every one of us.

**All:** **No longer lost, we have found our way home,  
surrounded by God's peace, by God's grace, by God's never-failing love.  
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 7:1-17

SERMON

*Our Traveling God*

MUSICAL OFFERING

*Adagio, from 'Violin concerto in G-Major' Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*  
Thomas Wood, violin

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**

HYMN 543 (bulletin page 4)

***God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me***

GREEN TYLER

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Fuga-Allegro moderato, from 'Sonata II in c-minor'*

*Felix Mendelssohn*

+ Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*.

**The flowers today are given in honor, appreciation, and gratitude  
for Charles Cureton's 20 years of service and prayers for First Presbyterian Church.**

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 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.

First Presbyterian Church

330-264-9420

[www.firstpreswooster.org](http://www.firstpreswooster.org)

Facebook: facebook.com/FPCWooster

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Sunday Sextons:	July 25 – Emily James & Sophia Baxstrom	August 1 – Ashton Dunlap
Sunday, July 25	8:30 a.m. Outside Fellowship & Devotional Service on the steps	
	9:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service in the Sanctuary	
Monday, July 26	10:00 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting	12:00 a.m. Rotary
	6:00 p.m. BSA-Cub Scout Pack 66	
Tuesday, July 27	8:30 a.m. Bible Study – Parlor	10:00 a.m. Bible Study – Bruch
Saturday, July 31	9:30 a.m. Al-Anon	
Sunday, August 1	8:30 a.m. Outside Fellowship & Devotional Service	
	9:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service in the Sanctuary	

Senior Men's First Monday Lunch will begin again on August 1, 11:30 at the Green Leaf Restaurant.

# 30 O God, in a Mysterious Way

1 O God, in a mys - te - rious way great won - ders you per - form.  
 2 Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines of nev - er - fail - ing skill,  
 3 O fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take. The clouds you so much dread  
 4 Our un - be - lief is sure to err and scan your work in vain.

You plant your foot - steps in the sea and ride up - on the storm.  
 you trea - sure up your bright de - signs and work your sov - ereign will.  
 are big with mer - cy and shall break in bless - ings on your head.  
 You are your own in - ter - pret - er, and you will make it plain.

This classic text gains renewed energy and focus from its recasting here: despite our fear and confusion, we can trust that God's providential purposes will eventually be revealed. In its original source the tune printed here is one of twelve not assigned to a specific hymn.

# God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to  
 2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -  
 3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,  
 4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to  
 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:  
 es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:  
 strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:  
 light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:  
 hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

This hymn is a 21st-century adaptation of the traditional Celtic prayer style known as a *lorica* (Latin for "armor" or "breastplate"). Many such petitions for God's presence and protection were never written down, but this one is based on an example attributed to St. Patrick.