

First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 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

Prelude in Classic Style & Psalm

Gordon Young

Eric J. Gastier, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP + (based on Psalm 124)

Carol McKiernan

One: If not for God, we would be searching for a purpose in lots of dead-end places.
Our help is in the name of God, who made heaven and earth.

**All: If not for God, we would be burdened with the idea that all of this life is up to us.
Our help is in the name of God, who made heaven and earth.**

One: If not for God, we would look at the hard and mean things in the world
and say, "That's the end of the story."

All: We worship today to tell God's story and receive renewed purpose, release, and hope.

PRAYER OF THE DAY +

Creator God, you make us all different, giving to each one of us special and wonderful gifts,
inviting us and challenging us to share who and what we are for the good of community.
In the beauty of our differences, remind us that we are One.
In this time of worship, help us to celebrate the Body of Christ
and the special place each one of us has in that body, through your Grace. **Amen**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

One: Generous God, you have created us in your image.
You have filled us—each one—with wondrous gifts.

**All: Yet we confess that we do not always recognize those talents
within ourselves or others.**

Sometimes we use them to hurt rather than build up.

We confess that sometimes we want everyone to be the same, to do things our way.

Forgive us. Nurture within us the gifts you have given us.

Empower us to offer our own gifts and to value the gifts of others.

Here each worshiper may offer personal, silent prayer.

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

God's gracious forgiveness always offers a new beginning.
Where we lurk in the shadows, God's mercy sheds the light of renewal.
Where the chaos of disregard exists, God's love brings the way of compassion.
God says, "It is good. You are good. Go forth and do good." **Amen**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

The Blessing of the Backpacks

Amy Baxstrom

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Ann Gastier

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

Morning has Broken

arr. Herbert Colvin

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:8—2:10

SERMON

The Future in Our Hands

HYMN (see next page for the music)

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

THE SERVANT SONG

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Postlude in F

Eric H. Thiman

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

The flowers are given this day by First Presbyterian in celebration of and thanksgiving for all of you who worship with us each week.

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 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 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.