

First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

August 2, 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

Andante cantabile, from 'String Quartet in D-major'

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Eric J. Gastier, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP +

Emily Neill

One: When our spirits are restless and unsettled,
when peace is nowhere to be found, the grace of God wraps around us.

All: **We do not rush through periods of darkness, but welcome their gifts that transform.**

One: In seasons of despair, truth comes to wrestle with us.

In silence, honest voices its concerns.

From the unknowns that surround, possibilities emerge.

Courage calls us to linger patiently in discomfort.

All: **In the light of day and the dark of night, God is with us.**

Thanks be to God who upholds us in love.

Let us give thanks and join our hearts, heads, and voices in worship this day.

PRAYER OF THE DAY +

Holy Agitator, come and wrestle with our hearts. Push and pull on our self-understandings.

Challenge our perceptions that confine, and confront our thinking that leads us to harm.

Meet us in the places deep within and let your Spirit lead us in truth and healing.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

One: As we gather here today, forgiving God, we confess to you and to one another
that we have not always lived as people graced with abundance.

All: **We confess the many small and large ways we have hoarded our time,
our friendship, our resources, and our love.**

**We confess the ways that we have avoided and stifled abundant growth
by silencing those whose visions and thoughts might not agree with our own.**

**We confess the ways we have narrowed your mission
by making our churches, our schools, our places of work,
inaccessible to those whose ways are not our ways.**

Forgive us, we pray. Open our hearts to receive and offer your generous love.

Here each worshiper may offer personal, silent prayer.

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

Hear this good news of grace: God comes searching for us,
calling us by name, leading us into the peaceable kingdom.
In Christ, we become new people: broken, we are made whole;
lost, we are found; forsaken, we are restored to new life. **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

MUSICAL OFFERING

Prélude, from 'Six Morceaux'
Claudia Thompson and Eric Gastier, pianos

Reinhold Glière

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 32:22-31

SERMON

Erin Guzmán, Interim Director of Religious and Spiritual Life/Interfaith Campus Ministries

HYMN (see next page for the music)

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

UNION SEMINARY

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING 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

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Chanson, from 'Six Morceaux'

Reinhold Glière

+ Liturgy adapted from *Enfleshed: Liturgy that Matters*.

<https://www.facebook.com/FPCWooster/>

+ Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*.

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.