

# First Presbyterian Church

## Wooster, Ohio

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 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

*Petit Prélude (Aria)*  
Eric J. Gastier, organ

*Joseph Jongen*

CALL TO WORSHIP +

April Gamble

One: We gather to worship our God,

**All: who speaks the words of peace we need to hear in chaotic times.**

One: We gather to follow Jesus,

**All: who encourages us to never fear, for he is near.**

One: We gather to be filled with the Spirit,

**All: who anoints us so we can go out to serve our world.**

**In this sacred space, let us join our hearts, minds, and voices in worship.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY +

You we praise, Steadfast Love, for your presence never abandons us,  
but remains at our side in all of life.

There is no remote corner that is not claimed by your grace.

Your voice is that gentle whisper in a world filled with angry shouts;  
your joy is that refreshing shower when despair parches our souls;  
your wonder opens our eyes and ears to the gifts which surround our lives.

For all of this we give you thanks and praise. **Amen**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

**All: We confess our struggle to be transformed into disciples, God of mystery.**

**The desires of the world would shape us into people you would not recognize.**

**The demands of our society pull us away from your heart.**

**Our culture values the rich, the powerful, the successful,**

**but you are on the side of the weak, the poor, the outcast, and the oppressed.**

**Forgive us, Gracious God, for looking for you in all the wrong places.**

**Reawaken us with your voice that calls us to service;  
revive our weary hearts with your vision of creation;  
refresh our fatigued spirits that we might boldly follow  
in the Way of Jesus, going forth to serve your world.**

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

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

This is the Good News for us, my friends:  
God remembers us and forgives us so that we might live  
as people of love and hope for the sake of all creation.    **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

Reverend Charles Cureton

**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

*Prayer of St. Gregory*  
John Schuesselin, trumpet

*Alan Hovhaness*

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 3:1-15

SERMON

*God Beyond All Names*

HYMN (see next page for the music)

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

*GREEN TYLER*

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Fanfare, from ‘La Péri’*

*Paul Dukas*

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

**The flowers today are given in celebration of two wonderful women and friends,  
Elizabeth Rice (mother of David) and Sarah Jackson (aunt of Meda),  
with thanksgiving for their wisdom and lovingkindness from Meda and Robert.**

**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 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.