

# First Presbyterian Church

## Wooster, Ohio

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 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

MINISTRY FOCUS

Virtual Concert to Benefit Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Elizabeth Perkins

PRELUDE

*Three Pieces from 'Vesper Voluntaries'*

*Edward Elgar*

Eric J. Gastier, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP +

Susie Slack

One: Jesus comes to us, showing us how to do the unlikely.  
Come, Jesus says: trust God.

**All: Jesus calls us to leave the boat to risk the waves.  
Come, Jesus says: trust God.**

One: Jesus calls us to rise from quiet prayer to risk the storms of faithful witness  
to God's justice and mercy and reconciliation.  
Come, Jesus says: trust God.

**All: Jesus calls us to rise from the heaviness of doubt to risk the joy of faith.  
In our worship this day, let us come to trust and rejoice in God.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY +

God of safety and of risk, you who call us over and over to leave what is familiar and comfortable  
and go out to places where the Spirit blows wild and wonderful winds of change,  
give us the courage today to journey where your breath will send us flying in new  
directions, led by your transforming love. **Amen**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

One: There are times when we feel cast down, lost in deep places, abandoned and alone.  
Come to us, O God, when fear overtakes us.

**All: There are times when we lash out in anger,  
seeking revenge for the ills of the world and others.  
Come to us, O God, when fear controls us.**

One: There are times when we come to our wit's end, not knowing where to turn.  
Come to us, O God, when fear disorients us.

**All: In this time, give us strength and courage to release our fears to you,  
O God, in hope of transformation and a renewed sense of purpose.**

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

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

Hear this good news of grace: God does not abandon us to our fears.  
God comes to us, God journeys with us—and God can be trusted, even when all seems lost.  
Friends, receive this good news: we are forgiven and made whole.  
Be at peace with God and with one another. **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

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

*Rejoice in the Lord (text: Philippians 2:15; 4:4, 8, 9)*  
Ann Giancola, soprano

Richard Lane

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 14:22-36

SERMON

*Finding Our Places*

HYMN (see next page for the music)

***Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak***

CANONBURY

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Voluntary in D*

George Dyson

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

**Flowers are given this day in celebration of Sophia Baxstrom's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday today – August 9th!**

**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.