

First Presbyterian Church Wooster, Ohio

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 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

Improvisation (Nadia Boulanger)

Eric J. Gastier, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP +

Kate Yordy

One: We enter worship through doors that have been opened for us:
opened by God's grace that welcomes all,
opened by a community that welcomes everyone.

**All: Let us open the doors of our minds and spirits to Sacred Presence.
Let us open the doors of our community to all.
Let us open the doors to our kinship with each other and all creation.
Come, let us worship the Gracious God
who has called us into this community of faith.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY +

Gracious God, you cast your love upon the earth with a generous hand,
into places where it will grow easily and abundantly;
into places where it will struggle to put down roots;
and into places where it risks being trampled or destroyed.

We seek to be your love in places of comfort and ease,
in places of pain and hurt, in places of violence and injustice.

Grant us the courage and the faith to be your love in the many places we find ourselves. **Amen**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

One: How do we approach you, God Beyond All Names, with our confessions?
We make you weary with our inability to do justice for the poor and outcast.
We gossip about those who are close to us, instead of being their loving friend.
We make promises and then go back on our word.
We fashion laws that alienate and demean those who are vulnerable.

**All: Forgive us, God of Hope, and bless us with your continuing care.
By your peace, we can do justice.
By your love, we can act kindly.
By your grace, we can walk with you as humbly and hopefully,
as did the one whose Way we seek to follow, Jesus the Christ.**

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Kate Yordy

MUSICAL OFFERING

Spiegel im Spiegel (Mirror in Mirror)
Thomas Wood, violin

Arvo Pärt

Prayer for Racial Justice

Save us, O God, from ourselves,
from racism often cloaked in pious words,
from the machinations of white supremacy hidden in calls for civility,
from micro aggressions thinly veiled in arrogance,
from apologies when they don't give way to action,
from forgiveness without facing the truth,
from reconciliation without reparation.

Deliver us, O God, from expecting siblings of color
to continue to bear this emotional work, which is not theirs to do.

Grateful for the long arc that bends toward justice, we pray:

Grant us wisdom,
give us courage for the facing of these days,
by the power of the Spirit,
all for the sake of the kin-dom that we share in Christ Jesus. Amen *(from the ELCA)*

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

SERMON

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

HYMN (see next page for the music)

Live into Hope

TRURO

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

William Mathias

+ Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*.

Flowers are donated by Joan Firmin in memory of her husband, Jim, and in celebration of his life.