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)  
Arvo Pärt

Thomas Wood, violin

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_  
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._