

# First Presbyterian Church

## Wooster, Ohio

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 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 with Elizabeth Perkins and Cameron Edmiston

PRELUDE

*Air (Giuseppe Tartini)*

Eric J. Gastier, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP +

Laura Neill

**One:** We stand on the shore of God's new day and look ahead to what is yet to be.  
We hold close the precious treasures of biblical stories, past experiences of God,  
and the wisdom of our ancestors in faith.

**All:** **Yet we move in God's Spirit to experience something new.  
May old and new blend in the way we respond to God's surprises  
as well as God's steady hand.**

**Come, let us worship our God who comes to us in newness each day.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY +

**One:** Such love you have for us, O God: revealed in creation,  
embodied in redemption, poured out in Spirit.

**All:** **By the light of such love would we love,  
by the power of such love would we hope,  
by the grace of such love would we serve you and others. Amen**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

**One:** Gracious God, when words of welcome and openness  
have not been matched by our practices, forgive us and make us whole.

**All:** **When we have been a stumbling block to another's journey  
rather than a trustworthy companion, forgive us and make us whole.**

**One:** When we are afraid of change and neglect the gift and privilege of love,  
forgive us and make us whole.

**All:** **You hear our prayers, O God, even when words fail us.  
But you do not fail us.  
Your love holds steady and welcomes us into greater 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

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

*Siciliano*

*John Stanley*

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-48, 51-53

SERMON

*At Home in the Kingdom*

HYMN (see next page for the music)

***Now Praise the Hidden God of Love***

*DICKINSON COLLEGE*

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Praeludium und Fuge in e-moll*

*Nikolaus Bruhns*

+ Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*.

**Flowers are given this day in memory of Professor W. Gordon Tait, by his friends.**

**Elizabeth Stockton Perkins and Cameron Edmiston** are giving a virtual concert of optimistic, feel-good tunes as a fundraiser for PCUSA Disaster Assistance. The link to the concert video, which will premiere at 7 PM on Saturday, August, will be available for anyone who makes a free-will donation to Disaster Assistance. You can donate by 1) mailing Elizabeth cash or a check payable to Presbyterian Church (USA) or 2) emailing Elizabeth ([presbyteriancookies@gmail.com](mailto:presbyteriancookies@gmail.com)) your receipt if you choose to make a digital donation on the PCUSA website. Please feel free to email any questions to Elizabeth at [presbyteriancookies@gmail.com](mailto:presbyteriancookies@gmail.com). Thank you so much for your support of Disaster Assistance and get excited for the concert on August 1!

**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 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.