

# First Presbyterian Church

## Wooster, Ohio

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 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

*Siciliano, from 'Sonata for Flute & Clavier'*

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

Eric J. Gastier, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP +

Joan Firmin

One: How shall we live in the love of God?

**All: We will treat one another with fairness and dignity.**

One: How shall we witness to God's forgiving love?

**All: We will reach out to others with compassion.**

One: Come, let us worship God who has always loved us.

**All: Let our worship of God be reflected in our lives of hope and peace.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY +

Loving God, we come this day to worship

and to thank you for the many ways you guide our lives.

We also come seeking your healing presence in our lives.

Help us always to be open to you, and give us the courage to let your love

be our way in the world, our way of relating to each other. **Amen**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

One: God, our hope and refuge, the Way of Jesus teaches us to let our anxieties go  
and trust in your goodness.

**All: Yet our human natures want to be in control.**

**We yearn for security or the illusion of it. We shun vulnerability.**

One: Hear us as we pray for healing and wholeness for ourselves and our relationships.

Lead us in the ways of compassion and justice and peace.

**All: Grant us the confidence of faith that nothing can separate us from you,  
through the loving example of Jesus of Nazareth.**

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

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

God does not abandon us in our fear.

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 restored.

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

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 18:15-20

Romans 13:8-10

SERMON

*We Are One*

MUSICAL OFFERING

*Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness*

*Johannes Brahms*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION +

INVITATION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Fuge in g-moll (The ‘Little’)*

*J. S. Bach*

+ Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*.

<https://www.facebook.com/FPCWooster/>

**The flowers are given this day by Helena, Wil, and Eric Gastier in honor of Ann’s birthday.**

**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 Covenant Network of Presbyterians calls the church to bear a unified witness to generous hospitality and faithful justice.

**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 (LGBTQIA+) 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.