

First Presbyterian Church
Wooster, Ohio
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
July 5, 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

Intermezzo, from 'Sonata VI' (Josef Rheinberger)

Eric J. Gastier, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP +

Sophia Baxstrom

- One: God invites all who are weary to come.
Come now with the burdens of work, home, and community.
God promises to give us rest.
- All: God invites all who are weary to come.**
Come now with the burdens of illness, of fear, of hopelessness.
God promises to give us rest.
- One: God invites all who are weary to come.
Come now with the burdens of anger, of prejudice, of alienation.
God promises to give us rest.
- All: God invites all who are weary to come, to lay down their burdens and find peace.**
We gather in hope and joy to rest in God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY +

Grant us wisdom, O God, not only to discern the times in which we live,
but to live faithfully within them.
May we serve well in the responsibilities and opportunities you gently lay upon our shoulders.
May we find rest in you along the Way of Jesus. **Amen**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

- One: God of Grace and Truth, we confess that we are masters of deception.
We say that we love peace, but our actions lead to conflict and discord.
- All: We say that we have trust in you, but expect our own resources to secure our futures.**
- One: We say that we mean well, but what we do betrays our self-centeredness.

**All: Gracious God, with you is hope and the promise of new beginnings.
Remind us today, in this time, that you are always here, calling us home:
within us, between us, beside us, around us, and the solid rock beneath our feet.**

Here each worshiper may offer personal, silent prayer.

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

God's gracious forgiveness always offers a new beginning.
Where we lurk in the shadows, God's mercy sheds the light of renewal.
Where the chaos of disregard exists, God's love brings the way of compassion.
God says, "It is good. You are good. Go forth and do good." **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

Erin Guzmán

MUSICAL OFFERING *Andante tranquillo e molto espressivo, from 'Duo for Two Pianos in E minor'*

Karolyn Rice and James West, pianos

C. Hubert H. Parry

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

SERMON

Shared Burdens

HYMN 543 (see next page for the music) ***God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me***

GREEN TYLER

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata

F. Theodore Dubois

+ Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*.

Flowers are donated by Sid and Fran Cammer in honor of all the birthdays in July.

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.